Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-91-069
Wednesday
10 April 1991

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FBIS-LAT-91-069 *10 April 1991*

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Cuba

UN Ambassador Alarcon Cited on Resolution 688

PA1004023291 Havana International Service in Spanish 0004 GMT 7 Apr 91

[Text] Ricardo Alarcon de Quezada, Cuban ambassador to the United Nations, has reported that Resolution 688, passed by the UN Security Council yesterday, violates the UN Charter by meddling in the internal affairs of a state. The document, which condemns Iraq for the alleged repression against Kurd minorities, contradicts Paragraph 7 of the UN Charter, the Cuban diplomat said.

Alarcon commented on the irony that the Security Council approved the resolution on humanitarian grounds while maintaining the economic sanctions and an inflexible blockade against the Iraqi people.

Western Powers Using Kurds in Iraq, FRG

FL0904161791 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 9 Apr 91

["Our Opinion" commentary by Ariel Arizamendi]

[Text] Throughout the world, voices have been raised demanding that the repression of the Iraqi Kurds, driven by the armed forces of Saddam Husayn, must cease. Many countries have denounced the genocide. The EEC has voted economic aid in the amount of $120 million. The United Kingdom has even proposed the creation of a Kurdish enclave in northern Iraq under UN protection to guarantee the physical security of the Kurdish refugees who are suffering from repression. The United States is dropping aid from airplanes to the Kurds in their march. These are all noble efforts.

Now the Western powers, historically responsible for the tragedy of 20 million Kurds scattered in five Middle Eastern countries, are presenting themselves as the champions in the struggle of this people, but not in Iran, Syria, or Turkey, but only in Iraq where the incidents of internal violence, led by the Kurds and Shi'ites, contributed to the defeat of that country by the multinational coalition, led by the United States.

No one in the West remembers, or cares to remember, that in these other countries, where the Kurds settled after World War I and the disintegration of the Romanov Empire, they were discriminated against and, in certain periods, massacred. Even the UN Security Council, with last week's Resolution 688, addressed the problems of the Iraqi Kurds, interfering in the internal affairs of Iraq and setting a bad precedent.

Let us look, however, beyond the Kurdish situation in the current stage. Independent of the just struggle of this people for their national identity, they are being seriously manipulated at this point. Over the course of this present conflict, let us not ignore what was said by the directors of the Kurdish Congress of America, who indicated that the CIA of the United States carried out, for several weeks, actions to incite the rebellion against the government of Saddam Husayn. (Ahmad Halabi), president of the Kurdish Congress, said in Washington that the radio station Radio Free Iraq [name as heard], which transmitted during the war from Saudi Arabia, was controlled by the CIA. He added that agents of this secret service visited refugee camps in Turkey to incite the rebellion on the other side of the border. He also said that the Kurdish resistance had not prepared any campaign whatsoever against the Iraqi regime and that at the beginning of the disturbances, inspired by the efforts of the U.S. toward an insurrection, really had no alternative but to follow that movement.

Those who started this conflict, for which Kurdish women, elderly, and even children are paying with their lives, are those who also provoked a group of Kurdish immigrants in the German capital to assault the Cuban Embassy, trying to detract from the position our country took in the UNSC [UN Security Council]. The whole thing was a collateral operation carried out on the sly, as if no one really had anything to do with it.

One thing is sure: The Kurds are being used to try to force Saddam Husayn from power. It is not, however, in the plans of the United States, and even less in those of Iran, Turkey, or Syria, to create a Kurdish state in the Middle East because such a state would pose the danger of greater stability in that region, which would be too much for the United States, its new world order, and its energy sources. That is what the matter is really about.

Fidel Castro Visits Train Accident Victims

FL0904015591

[Editorial Report] Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish at 0000 GMT on 9 April carry an approximately 22-minute recorded video report on a "summary" of Cuban President Fidel Castro's visit to Villa Clara Province on 7 April.

Castro began his tour by paying brief visits to Blas Roca Calderio Contingent's Brigades 30 and 31 camps in agricultural areas in Havana Province. Unidentified brigade members brief Castro on the most recent heavy rains fallen in the area and how they had affected their activities. Castro is also seen chatting with workers about baseball. He asks a worker about the type of pitching the worker does. Castro shows interest in the physical facilities of the camp, especially in the bunk beds the workers sleep on. Castro is seen chatting with more agricultural workers. One of them explains the work they are doing and says the main difficulty they have is getting materials. Castro says he has already been told about that. He then asks the worker if he is going to go to the baseball game.

Once in Villa Clara, Castro is seen visiting people who were injured in the train accident which occurred near Manacas, Villa Clara on 6 April. The video shows Castro asking doctors about the type of injuries the victims sustained. He inquires if the patients with spinal cord injuries had to be transferred to another hospital. The doctor says this is not necessary, that they have all they need to treat the patients

adequately. Castro then is seen chatting with a number of patients with various types of visible injuries. He asks a female patient who says her husband is in serious condition to "trust the doctors, they are going to do everything that is humanly possible to save him." Other patients describe their experiences during the accident.

Castro is seen again chatting with an unidentified doctor who explains that 50 people were killed at the scene of the accident almost immediately and that a few others died at the hospital. He adds that nothing could be done to save them. However, he notes that many more did not die because of the quick action taken in transferring the victims to the hospital. Another doctor again goes into details about the extent of the injuries of some of the accident victims and reiterates that they do not need additional medical help from other hospitals because they are managing well with what they have.

After visiting the Santa Clara Clinical-Surgical Hospital and the Manuel Fajardo Hospital in Villa Clara, Castro goes to the new military hospital under construction which is already providing some medical services in Villa Clara. There he looks at the modern installation.

Castro also visits a chemical laboratory and a genetic plant engineering center, as well as the National Tropical Tubers Research Institute in Santo Domingo, Villa Clara.

Finally, Castro is seen chatting with a group of adults and children. He asks if they have gotten any bicycles yet and they respond they have received just a few. The report ends with a medium shot of the children kissing Castro.

Pez Ferro Notes Latin American Solidarity

FL0904222091 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1933 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] The 10th Inter-Parliamentary Conference in Seville has turned into a new opportunity for Latin America to show solidarity with Cuba and to reject all intervention in Latin America's domestic affairs. These were the comments made by Ramon Pez Ferro, chief of the International Relations Department of the National Assembly of the People's Government, upon his return to Cuba after the conclusion of the conference in Seville.

Pez Ferro emphasized the clear and courageous support given to Cuba by the Latin American delegates who halted the attempt made by the Christian Democratic group of the European Parliament to condemn Cuba's policies. The European delegates had tried to introduce in the final statement of the conference a paragraph on alleged human right abuses in Cuba.

Nuclear Energy Cooperation With India Extended

PA1004023091 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0231 GMT 7 Apr 91

[Text] Havana, 6 Apr (EFE)—Cuba and India have extended their agreement on bilateral cooperation in the nuclear energy field, it was learned here in Havana today.

The agreement, which has been in effect since September 1986 includes cooperation in the application of nuclear techniques in agriculture in electronics, in nuclear instruments, and in the use of radiation in the preservation of food, as well as the exchange of information and scientific-technical personnel.

Fidel Castro Diaz-Balart, director of the Commission on Nuclear Energy, met with Indian Ambassador to Cuba Mukur Kanti Khisha, who delivered Castro Diaz-Balart a letter from his counterpart on the extension of the agreement, according to the National Information Agency.

Strengthened Ties With Sao Tome, Principe Noted

FL0804205091 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1941 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] Diplomatic relations between Cuba and Sao Tome and Principe, established on 10 April 1976, have strengthened during this decade. A brigade of Cuban doctors and health technicians and a teachers' brigade are currently providing services in that country. Numerous agreements have been signed by the two countries; the one on the fifth joint scientific-technical cooperation commission is among them.

Priest Gives Lecture at University of Havana

FL1004013291 Havana Radio Rebelde Networks in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Report by Diosdado Maso]

[Text] I just came back from the University of Havana where an interesting lecture is being given by Catholic priest Juan Vives Suria, president of the Latin American Foundation for Peace and Human Rights. Father Vives was invited to our country by the University of Havana's Latin American and Caribbean Studies Department which is headed by Mr. Cintio Vitier and the Ecumenical Council of Cuba.

Father Vives was also invited to attend the 35th general assembly of the Ecumenical Council of Cuba, which will begin tomorrow with an opening service at the church located between 25th and K Streets in our capital.

Father Vives has been a social service chaplain in Venezuela for over 30 years although he was born in Spain. Two documentaries are being shown as part of Father Vives' lecture. The first one is entitled "Foreign Debt as Viewed by Liberation Theology" and the second one "A Day Before: The Struggle for Peace Based on the Justice and Respect of Human Rights and the Peoples." The material has been prepared well.

Mrs. Maria Clemencia Lopez Jimenez, Venezuelan ambassador to our country and head of the Ecumenical Council of Cuba, and some members of the diplomatic corps accredited in our country are present at this event.

Cambodian Ambassador Presents Credentials

FL0904010091 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] Comrade Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Council of State, has received in a solemn audience the Honorable Mr. (Hing Smoel), who presented his credentials accrediting him as ambassador from the state of Cambodia. Comrade Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca Peoli attended the ceremony.

Following the formalities, the ambassador and those accompanying him went to the Revolution Square where they placed a floral wreath at the foot of the Jose Marti Monument.

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

Vincentian Politician Forsees Unity 'Derailing'

FL0804202091 Bridgetown CANA in English 1938 GMT 8 Apr 91

[By Corlita Ollivierre]

[Text] Kingstown, St. Vincent, April 8, CANA—Vincentian opposition politician Dr. Ralph Gonsalves sees a derailing of the process towards a political union of the Windward Islands after the opposition St. Lucia Labour Party [SLP] declared last week it was against the move. Dr. Gonsalves, leader of the Movement for National Unity (MNU), said the SLP's position was likely to cause a "break in ranks" of the Standing Conference of Popular Democratic Parties of the Eastern Caribbean (Scope), and the consequences were uncertain.

"If a significant section of Scope, and the St. Lucia Labour Party is a significant section of Scope, is going to hold a position and other parties hold another position, obviously Scope will be divided on the issue," Gonsalves told CANA. Scope is a grouping of opposition parties in the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

Dr. Gonsalves said the MNU, which is a member of Scope, would maintain its position of supporting the unity initiative in principle, although there were some questions to which the MNU wanted answers. He cited concerns regarding the type of union, and whether there would be safeguards to ensure that opposition parties do not become marginalised and that incumbent governments do not use political unity as a means of entrenching themselves in power.

Scope had taken issue with the governments of the Windward Islands over the composition, legal status, and terms of reference of the Regional Constituent Assembly (RCA) discussing the proposed union involving St. Lucia, Grenada, Dominica, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Scope's threat to boycott the inaugural sitting of the RCA here had forced its postponement and some changes. Dr. Gonsalves said Scope had no scheduled meeting but he expected one would be held before the start of the next RCA session slated for April 22 in St. Lucia.

Noting that the SLP's pronouncement was not a decision of Scope, Gonsalves said: "I don't see how the union could come about because Compton is not going to be able to get the requisite two-thirds majority in Parliament." He said he was a "little taken by surprise" at the SLP's position, adding: "The sad thing about this whole episode is that a lot of politics is being played with it on both sides of the political divide."

SLP leader Julian Hunte, who is also the chairman of Scope, said last week the party supported economic integration of the Caribbean and would ask its supporters to vote against political union in a proposed referendum.

Antigua and Barbuda

Bird, Sr. To Reinstate Son Lester to Posts

FL0904163291 Bridgetown CANA in English 1346 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] St. John's, Antigua, April 9, CANA—Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister Vere Bird, Sr. has offered to reinstate his son, Lester Bird, in the portfolios he held until his resignation last month after being switched to the Ministry of Finance and stripped of the post of deputy prime minister, informed sources said.

Besides being deputy prime minister, Lester Bird held the portfolios of Foreign Affairs, Economic Development, Planning and Tourism. His transfer to the Finance Ministry in a cabinet reshuffle occurred after he and five other government MP's called for the retirement of the 81-year old prime minister over his handling of the 1991 budget presentation.

The sources close to Lester Bird now said the prime minister had sought through intermediaries to bring back his son into the cabinet, as well as former Finance Minister John St. Luce who resigned in February, and Junior Minister Hendy Simon who quit simultaneously with Lester Bird.

The sources said the prime minister, however, was reluctant to reinstate former Trade Minister Hugh Marshall who also resigned last month. Marshall, however, had reportedly made it clear he would not serve again under Bird, Sr.

Barbados

Agreement Signed With EC for Lome IV Funds

FL0904181591 Bridgetown CANA in English 1538 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, April 9, CANA—Barbados and the European Community [EC] on Tuesday signed an agreement for funds to be disbursed to the country under the Lome IV Convention's National Indicative Programme.

The community, through the European Development Fund (EDF) will make available to Barbados a total grant of $14.8 million (one Bds [Barbados] dollar equals 50 U.S. cents). In addition, the European Investment Bank (EIB) could allocate $26.9 million in the form of subsidised loans or risk capital.

Acting Finance Minister Harold Blackman, who initialled the agreement on behalf of the government, said the EDF money would be used to strengthen and expand the hospitality division of the Barbados Community College and to refurbish and expand industrial estates of the state-run Industrial Development Corporation. Assistance is also planned for small and medium sized businesses through the National Development Foundation.

The government has informed the EIB of its intention to submit proposals in the areas of industry and tourism, the agro-industrial sector, as well as in the areas of energy and telecommunications.

Deputy Director General of the European Commission, Peter Pooley, who signed on behalf of the EEC, said that while the convention which governs aid and trade between the Community and the African, Caribbean, and Pacific countries had not yet been ratified by all the countries, planning for the next five years could begin.

Haiti

Metropolitan Casec Members Issue Demands

FL0904212591 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Excerpt] The members of the Association of Metropolitan Communal Section Administration Council [Casec] issued a warning that they will all resign. Since their appointment, the Casec members have been neglected by the executive as well as by the Parliament members, who have not provided a ruling on their functions. The Casec members demand that the authorities put at their disposal essential materials such as desks, equipment, vehicles, and a support staff. They demand 5,000 gourdes [$1,000] as the monthly pay for the Casec presidents and 4,000 gourdes [$800] for the assistants. The members of the Association of Metropolitan Casec are unanimously considering resigning if their case is not taken into consideration. They expressed these demands during a news conference yesterday. [passage omitted]

Youth Organization Leader on Aristide's 2d Month

FL0904233091 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] The Aristide-Preval government marked its second month in office on 7 April. On that occasion, the Association of Young People's Power of Haiti [Ajepopoa] leader Jude L. Jean-Jacques said that the government must pursue a policy that respects the interests of all sectors in the country. Jean-Jacques spoke of four points on which the government should be based. Let us listen to him.

[Begin Jean-Jacques recording] [Words indistinct] to satisfy the people's demands and find a solution to the country's sociopolitical and economic problems on both the national and international plane. This commission [not further identified] will allow Aristide to think about and give him an idea of the situation in the country.

The second point is that he should stop talking and making statements here and there. I think those statements are giving him problems on both the national and the international plane.

The third point is that he should try for the first time to make a clear political speech to define his orientation, the short-, medium-, and long-term political objectives of his government.

Finally, he should review each member of his government with a fine-tooth comb to look at their political vision, political orientation, and political strategy in order to see if these people are really working in close collaboration with the political program of his government. This could help him to keep his feet on the ground.

That is it. If he successfully implements these four points, we are certain that Father Aristide will manage to sit beside President Aristide. Then we will be able to believe that these five years will not be a (?big blow) to democracy. [end recording]

Trinidad and Tobago

Union, Company Settle Two-Week Ispat Strike

FL0904153391 Bridgetown CANA in English 1258 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, April 9, CANA—A two-week strike by over 500 workers at the Caribbean Ispat Steel Company was called off Monday following a meeting between the foreign-owned company and the Steel Workers Union of Trinidad and Tobago (SWUTT). The work stoppage began on March 25 to protest the suspension of a union delegate accused by the company of misconduct.

Under the terms of the settlement, no disciplinary action will be taken against the workers who took part in the strike, union officials said. In addition, a tribunal will be set up comprising one union representative, one company representative, and an independent chairman to investigate the alleged misconduct of the union delegate. The company and the union have agreed to abide by the findings of the tribunal, which are expected in six weeks time.

Caribbean Ispat said it lost more than $37 million (one TT [Trinidad and Tobago] dollar equals 23.5 U.S. cents) in production and sales due to the strike. Workers' wages and salaries losses were put at over two million dollars.

El Salvador

Cristiani Speech Details FMLN Negotiations

PA1004050191 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 0200 GMT 10 Apr 91

["Address to the nation" by President Alfredo Cristiani at the Presidential Palace in San Salvador; date not given—recorded]

[Text] Good evening, Salvadoran people. Today I would like to speak to you about the peace process that has been taking place in our country. As you know, since the beginning of our government we have stated very clearly that we would do everything necessary to attain peace in our country. In addition, we very clearly set forth the fundamental bases that would mark our actions, and we expressed these fundamental bases on 1 June 1989 during the inaugural speech. Now I would like to read some paragraphs from that speech.

Quote: The search for a solution to the armed conflict. No one in his right mind could want this fratricide and unjust war to be prolonged. As a party and now as the government, we have been participating unhesitatingly in the democratic process precisely to attain peace in our country. We understand that there are deep and old social and economic problems that we must deal with sincerely and realistically.

We also understand that this war was unleashed by the totalitarian Marxist-Leninist forces to take over power by taking advantage of these problems. The Marxists want to make us believe that their solutions are the only ones capable of overcoming the poverty and lowliness of our people. But History shows quite the opposite. The Marxists want to disguise misery with their totalitarian collectivism and to impede progress by completely paralyzing all of the individual energies in society. The Marxist war in El Salvador has no future.

We have the historical duty to terminate this war, and we will do it with the means provided by democracy itself. The Constitution orders the president of the Republic to seek social harmony in the country. We will obey these instructions to the letter by seeking a legal and political understanding with all sectors. The FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] is one of these sectors. We will immediately seek to get in touch with others, not to make proposals to them so they can make counterproposals, thus continuing an endless game that can only serve as a propaganda exercise.

Since the first day of our government, we have been willing to work to attain peace, trying to avoid violating the Constitution and in accordance with the following outline. This outline is now mentioned. In sum, however, this is what we now have as a peace process, a permanent, serious, and, we think, irreversible process. This process has been developing, and at various occasions we have succeeded in reaching certain agreements. There are two essential accords. The first is the Geneva accord, and I would like to mention the nature of this accord. The first objective is to attain peace as soon as is practicable. To attain this peace, it is necessary to discuss all the aspects leading to three situations: one, consolidation of democracy in our country; two, unrestricted respect for the Salvadoran people's human rights; and three, national reconciliation.

To reach these goals, an agenda for political agreements was proposed. An agreement was reached in Caracas, where the agenda was established and it was agreed that the process would consist of two stages. Phase one would consist of the cessation of the armed confrontation, and phase two would consist of the FMLN's disarmament and demobilization and its incorporation into the national life. Seven fundamental topics were agreed upon in the Caracas agreement: the Armed Forces, judicial reform, electoral reform, human rights, economic aspects, constitutional reform, and a cease-fire. These topics have been broadly debated in our society, particularly because we invited the political parties into the debate and the so-called interparty commission agreed to discuss this agenda and seek a consensus. This means that this agenda is nothing new, but something that has been debated in our country for a long time.

At present, the process has reached a point where we are demanding a cease-fire. We have found that to establish this cease-fire a political consensus must be reached on three essential topics agreed upon in Caracas: the Armed Forces, constitutional reform... [seven-second break in reception] have created anxiety and restlessness in our country. In particular, the FMLN has tried to do this through disinformation. Nevertheless, within the accord of the peace process, confidentiality, and position of reserve, I will try to clarify this uneasiness I have been observing in the Salvadoran people.

In the first place, there have been rumors saying that the dissolving of the Armed Forces is under discussion. I would like to clarify for you at this time that, as you know well, this topic is the one about which the FMLN has carried on a greater debate and discussion. In addition, our society has amply debated it through all of the media and all of the country's sectors.

I would like to clarify two things: The way the topic has been dealt with, the Armed Forces have always taken part in the discussions because their institution is involved. Contrary to what sometimes has been said, discussions have not been restricted to a closed circle. The Armed Forces High Command has always kept all its members informed. Various ranks of Armed Forces' members—from lieutenants to colonels—have taken part in each of the seven work commissions. In this connection, we want to clearly state that we totally disagree and we find completely unfair the claims that there has been a betrayal, because despite the delicate nature of the topic, it has been seriously discussed as openly as possible, when the circumstances permited.

We also wish to stress that this topic has been dicussed by the political parties and that confidential discussions have been held and these discussions have not been behind the Armed Forces' back. Therefore, I repeat, within the confidentiality we need to maintain, the topic is being discussed as one of the fundamental ones. What does the government believe the Armed Forces should be? Our ideas are contained in a letter written in the beginning of 1990, addressed to the UN Secretary General, after he agreed to mediate and move the peace process forward. I would also like to read you the point that has to do with the Armed Forces. This letter is dated 11 May 1990. Point No. 5: The government understands and accepts that in a democratic society the civil power that emanates from the people's will should unequivocally prevail above any other power. Institutional progress since the 1982 elections is very noticeable. The Armed Forces had a very special mission to keep during the conflict: To defend the country's institutionality by repelling the aggression—whatever justification the aggressors might brandish. It is absolutely clear that once pacification moves ahead, the Armed Forces will have to readjust qualitatively and quantitatively to the normal requirements of a democratic country in the same proportion. It is also logical to say that the democratic process will give the Armed Forces its role in a new and peaceful society.

To seriously and realistically advance the negotiations, the FMLN must accept that the El Salvador of 1990 is not the El Salvador of 1979. The FMLN cannot continue to ignore that a democratic process now exists, even though there is agreement on the need to bolster and consolidate it. The restructuring of the Armed Forces and its institutional evolution are important points to be discussed as part of the dialogue process.

Under no circumstances, however, is the existence of the Armed Forces a point for discussion. Therefore, Salvadoran people, the Salvadoran Government has always maintained that the Armed Forces is a institution that is currently structured for armed conflict, and if peace is attained in El Salvador it is only logical that the Armed Forces will need to evolve into an institution within the framework of peace and democracy in our country. I want to once again emphasize that this is not a point of discussion with the FMLN. We also talked about what is considered as territoriality. Here the FMLN has carried out a full campaign to try and influence and disinform the Salvadoran people. We also want to emphasize that there is one government in El Salvador, and it controls all the national territory; that the Armed Forces operates in any place within the national territory; and that although the Armed Forces cannot remain permanently in all places, it is simply because of its size and other responsibilities. Any time the Armed Forces needs to go anywhere in the country, it does so.

Sometimes, based on information which is not exactly official, it has been said that someone wants to grant territory to the FMLN that would remain under its control in the event that the armed confrontation comes to an end. This is also completely untrue. What has been proposed is a cease-fire that may be verified by the United Nations, and that the United Nations may verify that all sides, the FMLN as well as the Armed Forces, curtail all offensive operations. To that end, it is necessary that the FMLN concentrate its forces in certain areas so that the United Nations may verify that there are no clashes between the Armed Forces and the FMLN. These would become temporary security areas—zones of FMLN concentration—while we pass through the first stage of the process, the end of the armed confrontation, and conclude the second stage, which is the disarmament and demobilization, before the FMLN's incorporation into national life. Therefore, it cannot be said that this constitutes giving up control of territory to the FMLN. Moreover, in signing the Geneva accord, the FMLN itself has accepted that the final objective of this process is to incorporate it into the legal and civilian life of the country. In that sense, no one should think that the government is giving away what it legitimately has—the control of all national territory.

In conclusion, I will address a topic that is causing some insecurity and uncertainty. That is the topic of the constitutional reform. I wish to clearly state the Salvadoran Government's position on this issue in an effort eliminate any uncertainties. We believe that the Constitution of the Republic cannot be a subject of negotiations. The Constitution of the Republic belongs to the Salvadoran people; to the sovereign Salvadoran people. The only thing we could do is that, if the political agreements reached in Caracas include an agreement which—to make it viable, that is to say that, to make it a reality—needs to be subjected to constitutional reform; the Government of the Republic would promote reforms so that the Legislative Assembly, in accordance with the constitutional procedures, decides whether such reforms can be implemented. Thus, we are talking about particular reforms on specific topics rather than broad negotiations on the Constitution of our country. [end quote]

We believe that if there is flexibility and realism among Salvadorans, there is still time to search for and to find reforms that may allow us to consolidate our democracy, to ensure that human rights are respected, and to seek national reconciliation. These topics have been discussed, as we said before, it is not new that we have spoken about the need for judicial reforms and that some changes may lead to constitutional reforms. The interparty commission's subcommittees have discussed it. The need for reforms has not been denied during discussions on other topics, however the topics mentioned would here would be derived from the same ones subject to approval by the Legislative Assembly. To this end, I would like to read a paragraph from the 1 June 1989 speech to remind you and assure you what we have always maintained and what we declared to be our call to action.

We must always remember this because we will never stray from the framework we established on 1 June 1989. Back then, when we mentioned the search for peace, we

concluded: We are not asking anyone to surrender. However, we cannot accept that social peace be based on the violation of the law. We have vowed to comply by the Constitution and the laws of the Republic and that is what we will do.

The dialogue with all sectors must be carried out within the law, and our dialogue with the FMLN does not have to be an exception. At this moment, when we assume the nation's top office, we are no one's enemy. We offer our goodwill to find solutions to benefit the people to whom we must respond. We are willing to act in line with the future because the tasks that lie ahead after this stage of violence are tremendous. The responsibility to carry out such tasks must be shared by all. This goodwill, which is sincere, must not be misconstrued as weakness. We are strong because we have firm principles, principles that have not changed and will not fundamentally change. We have the strength of those who fight for freedom within a democracy. We are also strong because we abide by and will enforce the law.

Our people need security and we will give it to them by applying the law, not simply by force. However, we will not hesitate to be legally firm in the face of the disorder, destruction, and anarchy that have scourged our people.

These last few words, Salvadoran people, bring us to other cases that are not within the peace process, but I would like to comment briefly on them. In the first place, there is the case of the kidnapping of a Salvadoran citizen. On this occasion, we would like to stress that our government will not rest until it has eradicated such a scourge from El Salvador. We will pursue all those involved in this crime so that they will be punished, regardless of who they are.

We cannot allow this horrible crime to return to our fatherland. The government will fight it with all of its energy. However, we must also think of those who want to take the law into their own hands and those who completely disregard the laws of the Republic.

There is much social turmoil here, a turmoil that goes beyond labor unrest and turns into political chaos. We have also witnessed illegal land seizures. We want to urge these people to reason. We are not at the right moment to want to provoke the government, much less the Armed Forces and the security organizations.

We want to seek a stability that will allow Salvadorans to find peace. In this regard, we will not allow those who want to sow chaos, anarchy, and disorder to be successful in our country. We will support the majority of the people who, we are certain, want respect for the law, order to prevail, and an end to anarchy. Because of what these Salvadorans want, we will respond to the minority that wants to sow disorder.

Salvadoran people, the Salvadoran Government has been working for peace because we feel it is your mandate. No one can deny here that the greatest wish of all the people is to attain peace.

Thus, tonight we are asking the FMLN, in the first place, to reason. Although they could justify to themselves having to resort to weapons in the past because there were no political opportunities in El Salvador, they should now look at the changes that have occurred in our society. They should take a look at the most recent elections, the elections on 10 March 1991, when all the sectors were able to find the opportunity that perhaps did not exist in the past. Now, all the political forces that participated in the elections, with the exception of one, have seats in the Legislative Assembly, and they can try to make their ideas count and exchange views with the other political forces, hoping to do this constructively, while seeking the welfare of the Salvadoran people.

This is why, gentlemen of the FMLN, a conflict is no longer justified here. We should not continue to shed the Salvadoran people's blood and destroy the country in which all of us will live in the future. This is why it is now necessary for you to abandon ideological postitions that seek only destabilization. It is now necessary for all of you to ponder what the majority of the Salvadoran people want: security, tranquillity, and stability. The people no longer want violence, anarchy, and disorder. We are asking for the Salvadoran people's support for all those who are seeking peace in El Salvador both day and night. We feel that this would not be the achievement of a few. The attainment of peace in our country is the achievement of all Salvadorans. We should all contribute toward this goal. For this reason, at this time—which could be an historical period in our country—we are asking you to remain calm and tranquil and have the required prudence because we do not want any more instability and disorder. What we want is to advance toward peace.

Finally, we are asking that all of you have confidence. The basic principles—which I have read for you—that mark the actions of the Salvadoran Government will continue to be the principles that we will firmly maintain. Therefore, you people should continue to maintain the necessary trust so that the government can work positively for peace. We will always base this peace on principles. We are sure we will always be able to rely on your support. Salvadoran people, as I said a few moments ago, we are living at a time that will be described later as crucial for the country. Salvadoran people, let us think about and ponder these things because the attainment of this peace could be near at hand if everyone cooperates. We, as the government, are willing to work tirelessly with you to have the country we all want: a nation of peace, progress, and freedom. May God bless you all. Good night.

Peace Accord Would Require Constitutional Reform

PA0904155991 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 6 Apr 91 p 5

[Text] The official government commission and the guerrillas entered their second day of negotiations in a

Mexico City hotel, and on 5 April they were studying the possibility of reforming the Constitution before 30 May, in time for a cease-fire.

International news agency reports said that the peace talks agenda between the Salvadoran Government and the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] includes issues aimed at restructuring the Armed Forces.

The negotiations are being sponsored by the United Nations and are running against the clock because constitutional reforms must be established before 30 May, when the present Legislative Assembly period comes to an end.

The Constitution of El Salvador states that every constitutional reform must be approved by a Legislative Assembly and later ratified by the following assembly. According to this, if the present legislature, which concludes on the 30th of this month [as published], does not approve any changes, there will be a waiting period of at least three more years.

Three Essensial Issues

The same reports say that this could be an opportunity to take a step toward peace by simultaneously discussing, with the participation of high-ranking military personalities on both sides, the three basic issues of the peace talks: the Armed Forces, a cease-fire by 30 May, and constitutional reforms.

The government delegation is headed by Dr. Oscar Santamaria and it includes Coronel Mauricio Ernesto Vargas, chief of operations of the General Staff. They are being assisted by a team of military officers acting as technical advisers for the cease-fire discussion.

The guerrilla delegation is presided over by Jorge Shafik Handal and Joaquin Villalobos, and also includes FMLN commanders Jorge Melendez, also known as "Jonas", Raul Hercules and Marcelo, who are attending for the first time.

FMLN Terms Powell Statements 'Interventionist'

PA1004041391 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2206 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] Mexico City, 9 Apr (EFE)—Nidia Diaz, commander of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, today characterized as "interventionist" the statements made by General Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who said the United States could militarily intervene to end the civil war in El Salvador.

In commenting to EFE on Powell's statements made in Tegucigalpa on Monday, 8 April, the FMLN guerrilla leader said that "such an interventionist attitude is offensive to the dignity of the Salvadoran people."

According to Diaz, the possibility of military intervention noted by Powell "reflects the weakness of the Salvadoran Army," but his remarks "exert no pressure on the FMLN."

The guerrilla leader noted that negotiations between the FMLN and the government of Alfredo Cristiani, which have been held in this capital since 4 April under UN mediation, "have entered an intensive stage."

Asserting that "the FMLN is strong and we want to find a reasonable political solution," the commander also said that "the results of the negotiations will reflect the willingness of the majority of the Salvadoran people to seek peace." She noted that the issues of the Armed Forces, a cease-fire, and constitutional reform are the subject of negotiations.

She stated that "if we reach a specific agreement, we would enter a period of peace, an armistice that would allow us to continue negotiations for a definitive peace." The cease-fire will be "the product of political negotiations during the armistice period," she added.

She said that "our current goal is to achieve democratization, the enforcement of human rights, a complete solution to the armed conflict, and national reconciliation."

She added that "the Salvadoran society wants peace and the international community wants peace, and this is the right time to negotiate it." She affirmed that "the FMLN has become more flexible on substantive and procedural matters."

Diaz said that "the goal to achieve democratization is ever present, and we have to dismantle the dictatorship in order to create political maneuvering room that can lead to equality and opportunity for all sectors," Diaz said.

As for the Armed Forces, Commander Diaz said it is a point that has occupied most of the time in the peace talks, and she noted that the FMLN is asking for a purge within the Armed Forces and an end to its "impunity."

"The Armed Forces should be subordinated to civilian rule because currently in El Salvador they are like another center of power that decides everything in the country," the guerrilla leader said.

Diaz said, "The Constitution has to reflect the submission of the Armed Forces to civilian rule, like another branch, without all the powers it has."

"We have a civilian president, but the president does not really rule. The Armed Forces decide everything in the country; that is what we call a dictatorship," Diaz said.

In this round of negotiations, "we have to reach an agreement on the reforms to Article 248 of the Salvadoran Constitution so there can be more room for progress in this process," the guerrilla leader said.

"The operation of a military should be established in such a way that there is a difference between a national army and a civilian national police," she added.

"The decisions made by President Cristiani are a source of power, but they are not a decisive factor. The United States is involved here because they have played an important role," the FMLN leader said.

According to Diaz, "time has shown the United States that if they are seeking a military solution, the war could go on indefinitely."

"In addition, (the United States) has commitments with other countries that really want a political solution and want to create the conditions to make Central America an area of peace and development," the commander pointed out.

"It is up to Cristiani to decide if he will adopt a more independent position and make progress in the negotiation, but the nation itself and the Salvadoran people are demanding it," Commander Diaz stated in conclusion.

Guatemala

Guerrillas Accept Government Dialogue Proposal

PA1004052091 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0334 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] Guatemala City, 9 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano announced tonight that the guerrillas have accepted the government's proposal to initiate peace negotiations. He said he was "pleased" with the response given by the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG).

Last Monday, 8 April, Serrano proposed that the URNG hold a meeting before 20 April, with the purpose of signing "a total peace" agreement that can end the 30 years of armed struggle which has left more than 100,000 dead.

During a ceremony held at the National Palace, Serrano said he had received a dispatch from CERIGUA news agency, considered to be the URNG's organ, in which the rebel commanders agree to discuss his proposal and they propose the Army's participation in the negotiations.

According to Serrano's proposal, the government is offering guarantees for the return of URNG rebels (some 3,000 according to independent sources) to civilian life and it agrees to seek solutions to the problems of extreme poverty, from which 60 percent of the Guatemalan population suffer.

According to the CERIGUA dispatch, cited by Serrano, URNG leaders Luis Becker and Miguel Angel Sandoval say the proposal "is a step to attain peace."

"With this proposal, in-depth discussions of the country's demilitarization and of the causes that led to the armed conflict could take place because it does not involve any conditions," the CERIGUA note states.

The president told ACAN-EFE that he was pleased with the guerrillas decision, and he said: "A sense of happiness has come upon me."

"Only a fool would not want peace in Guatemala," according to the president, who said he was pleased with the quick response by the guerrilla leaders.

The peace proposal, which received the support of the Army, the Catholic Church, and the leading political parties, could be signed in Oslo, Norway, the site of preliminary talks between the URNG and political parties, or "wherever both sides agree upon," according to Serrano's proposal.

According to the URNG, the "total peace" plan drafted by the Guatemalan president, "is the first response to the various proposals we have made in this regard." The URNG spokesmen said that Serrano's proposal should be discussed during an initial meeting between the government, the Army, and the guerrilla commanders.

* Social Pact Decree Detailed, Reaction Noted

* Text of Social Pact Decree

91CA0089A Guatemala City DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA in Spanish 5 Mar 91 p 3

[Text] This is the decree issued by the Government of the Republic convoking the national sectors to the Social Pact.

CONSIDERING:

That the Government of the Republic holds it to be its fundamental policy to further the Social Pact, as the appropriate instrument for creating the environment of understanding, trust, and certainty that the nation demands, its objective being to achieve the economic and social stability and to lay the solid bases needed to ensure economic growth within a framework of freedom and social justice;

CONSIDERING:

That the current economic, social, and political crisis calls for a reasoned and mature response, and, therefore, that such a response must be based on recognition of the fact that the social parties, alone, can neither preserve the social fabric nor, alone, overcome the causes and effects of the crisis, and that the Social Pact must be converted into a civilized instrument, congruent with the nations current state of democratic growth, and within a pluralistic and participative environment, for responding to the great present and future challenges the nation must face;

CONSIDERING:

That, notwithstanding its constitutional empowerment to enact the economic and social measures necessary for

dealing with the grave problems affecting the population, the Government recognizes that it must promote actions designed to add content to the democratic process, and that, cognizant of the historic demand for participation by the nation's different sectors, it must promote effective, reasoned, and mature dialogue on the main issues of economic and social concern so that a joint effort can be directed toward the elimination of the causes that determine the imbalances which, in turn, exacerbate the economic and social tensions and conflicts present in the Guatemalan society;

CONSIDERING:

The urgent need to arrive at agreements through the Social Pact on economic and social aspects and concerning the restructuring of the state, giving immediate priority to those demanding a solution in the near term, without precluding continuation of work in successive stages toward resolving intermediate- and long-term requirements;

CONSIDERING:

That, under Articles 1 and 2 of the Political Constitution of the Republic of Guatemala, it is the duty of the state to protect the person and the family, to take all steps leading to realization of the common good, and to guarantee life, freedom, justice, security, peace, and integral development of the person to all the nation's inhabitants;

THEREFORE:

Exercising the powers vested in it by subparagraphs a), e), and m) of Article 183 of the Political Constitution of the Republic of Guatemala,

THE CABINET OF MINISTERS

DECREES

Article 1. The labor, business, and cooperatives sectors are hereby convoked to participate jointly with the Government of the Republic in the study, negotiation, and ratification of the Social Pact as the dynamic instrument that unites the efforts of the productive sectors represented, around the search for solutions to the nation's social problems, with the aim of achieving economic and social stability.

Article 2. Created hereby is the Social Pact Commission consisting of: Ten (10) representatives of the labor sector; ten (10) representatives of the business sector; four (4) representatives of the organized cooperatives; representing the public sector, the ministers of labor and social security, of economy, of finance, of agriculture, livestock, and food, and of urban and rural development; the commissioner for the streamlining of the state; and four (4) delegated representatives of the president of the Republic. In the absence of the ministers, their respective vice ministers will substitute for them.

Article 3. The General Confederation of Guatemalan Workers [CGTG], Confederation of Trade Union Unity of Guatemala [CUSG], National Federation of Government Workers of Guatemala [FENASTEG], Trade Union Federation of Guatemalan Bank Employees [FESEBES], and Guatemalan Workers Trade Union [UNSITRAGUA] are hereby invited to convoke meetings with nonfederated unions and other labor organizations, to lay the foundations and arrive at agreements enabling, democratically, pluralistically, and with the participation of entities representative of the labor sector, the designation of that sector's representatives.

Article 4. The Coordinating Committee of Agricultural, Commercial, Industrial, and Financial Associations [CACIF] is hereby invited to convoke meetings with representatives of the business organizations and associations federated with it or not, for the purpose of, and in the manner stipulated in the preceding article, designating the representatives of its sector.

Article 5. The Guatemalan Confederation of Cooperatives Federations [COFECOOP] and the Grand Union of Federated Cooperatives [GUCONOPE] are hereby invited to convoke meetings with representatives of the cooperatives for the purpose of, and in the manner stipulated in Article 3, designating their representatives.

Article 6. The designations referred to in the preceding articles shall be made as soon as possible and the result of each of them communicated to the Ministry of Labor and Social Security not later than 12 March of this year. In the event no designation is made, the president of the Republic will proceed to complete the representation of the sector concerned.

Article 7. The members of the Social Pact Commission will perform their functions ad honorem.

Article 8. The minister of labor and social security shall preside over and coordinate the Social Pact Commission. In his absence these duties will be assumed by the ministers in the order in which they are designated in Article 2 of this Decree.

Article 9. The Ministry of Labor and Social Security is hereby empowered to provide the human and material resources the Commission will require for the best performance of its functions, and to designate an Executive Secretary.

Article 10. Within the first fifteen (15) days following the date of its installation, the Social Pact Commission shall issue its bylaws, its agenda, and its standing operating procedures.

Article 11. The conclusions and recommendations arrived at by the Social Pact Commission shall be submitted to the president of the Republic within a period not to exceed seven (7) days from the date on which they have been definitely adopted, by consensus, for consideration by the president and adoption of those measures that he considers expedient.

Article 12. The Social Pact Commission shall be installed by the president of the Republic on 15 March 1991 in the course of a special ceremony.

Article 13. This Decree shall have effect as of the date of its publication in the DIARIO OFFICIAL.

* Social Pact Explained

91CA0089B Guatemala City DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA in Spanish 5 Mar 91 p 5

[Unattributed editorial: "What Is the Social Pact?"]

[Text] The government is seeking to bring into being a Social Pact that will enable Guatemalans to agree on something that affects everyone and that will foster solutions that are the product of dialogue and consensus among the fundamental sectors of Guatemalan society: workers, businessmen, and government. Mario Solorzano Martinez, minister of labor and social security, likens the Social Pact to an instrument charged with creating the atmosphere of conciliation, trust, and certainty demanded by the country for the achievement of economic stability and for an assisted takeoff that will enable the instituting of policies designed to improve wages.

Essentially, What Is the Social Pact?

It is a methodology for the pursuit of a concrete objective. Social and economic agreement, in a moment of crisis, has the effect of channeling the demands of the organized groups, insofar as concerns the assignment of recourses, responsibilities, sacrifices, and distribution of the national product. This means that the solution of the crisis must be shared by the society in its entirety.

The force of the Pact rests on the give and take, the reasonableness and the maturity of the parties to the dialogue, who, through direct, representative, and systematic contact, moderate and adjust their conflicting views.

What is the juridical framework of the Pact?

The juridical framework of the Social Pact is provided by its adherence to the Political Constitution of the Republic of Guatemala. The Pact's effectiveness lies in the will that is to be shown by the participants with respect to the problems to be debated and the objectives to be attained.

Pact's Conditional Factors

Instituting a social pact is neither a simple matter nor one of spontaneity, says Mario Solorzano Martinez, adding that its success and ability to stand the test of time depend on the existence of a combination of conditioning factors, which, however, can be ensured by the combined will of the participants to arrive at agreement on the central problems of the crisis. These essential factors are:

1. Effective freedom of the labor movement.
2. Representativeness of the participating organizations (sectors).
3. Shared and balanced power among the participants.
4. Agreement of the political parties represented in the Congress of the Republic.
5. Technical and data processing infrastructure.
6. Content of the Social Pact.
7. Datelines.

All of these factors are vital to attainment of the expected successful outcome. Special emphasis must be placed on the importance of freedom of the labor movement, which is guaranteed by the Constitution of the Republic and by the Labor Code. In addition, the all-out government effort to guarantee this freedom through the Ministry of Labor, in accordance with our Magna Carta, assures the labor sector of a representative voice.

* UASP Opposes Pact

91CA0089C Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 25 Feb 91 p 10

[Article by Leonel Gutierrez]

[Text] Guatemala, 25 February—The leadership of Unity of Trade Unions and Popular Action [UASP] has stated that "the government and the powerful sectors of the country want to impose an evil called the 'Social Pact,' with the basic aim of putting an end to the popular movement's just demands and struggles.

"What the central government and the CACIF [Coordinating Committee of Agricultural, Commercial, Industrial, and Financial Associations] are seeking is to straitjacket the present system's most unprotected sectors, and to this effect they are now demanding that the popular movement sign a so-called 'Social Pact,' without having first resolved the socioeconomic problems that they themselves have caused.

"We believe that the signing of that 'Social Pact,' as is their intent (government-CACIF), will mean that we popular sectors must resign ourselves to continue living in our present state of utter poverty, exploitation, relegation to the fringes, discrimination, and repression," the leadership objected.

"Nowhere, in any direction whatsoever, do we the working class and other dispossessed sectors of the country see the least intent on the part of President Serrano and the elite sector of the nation to cede a little in their ambitions and ease our sufferings.

"The present government is continuing the same policy as its predecessors, and in place of concrete solutions to the prevailing situation, we once again receive false promises; and if we protest, we are threatened and savagely repressed."

Concluding, the UASP leadership said: "This is why everything being said by the government to the effect that the 'Social Pact' is the best-suited approach for

solving the country's socioeconomic problems is, from every point of view, utter demagoguery."

Honduras

Over 30,000 Answer Union's Call To Stage Strike

PA0904222691 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2104 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 9 Apr (DPA)—More than 30,000 Honduran workers, who are demanding a wage increase and labor stability, suspended their activities in state hospitals, ministries, and several private businesses today. The striking workers were heeding a call made by the Central Federation of Unions of Free Honduran Workers (Fecesitlih), which comprises at least 26 labor organizations across the country.

The strike was extended to at least four state hospitals, the Communications and Transportation Secretariat, as well as private commercial and industrial centers throughout the country.

The Fecesitlih decided to call a general strike after holding talks with the government of President Rafael Leonardo Callejas. They are demanding from the president a wage increase of 53 million lempiras (Honduran currency), an end to the dismissal of government employees, and labor stability.

Even though President Rafael Leonardo Callejas made an offer of 45 million lempiras to the strikers, they insist on carrying out the strike until all their demands are met.

In light of the strike, which may get the support of principal labor unions in the country, the government warned Fecesitlih about its intention to suspend its legal status.

This is the first large workers strike faced by the conservative government of the National Party since it came to power with President Callejas in January 1990 and since the economic measures were initiated on 12 March of the same year.

Public Force Evicts Strikers From Hospital

PA1004045891 Paris AFP in Spanish 0231 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 9 Apr (AFP)—Approximately 30,000 workers paralyzed several Honduran public institutions today to demand salary increases and to protest what they term as massive dismissals and harassment by the government.

The strike affects the state hospitals, the Communications Ministry, Public Works and Transportation, telecommunications, the capital municipality, the Post Office, and some private companies. The strike also has the support of the National Association of the Honduran Public Employees' (Andeph) rank and file, comprised of 44,000 members, who could join the strike.

Meanwhile, Public Security Force members evicted the workers that this morning had taken over the Hospital-School, that is, the main state hospital, and immediately thereafter they allowed the patients, who were waiting at the gates, to enter. The San Felipe Hospital was also placed under military control.

The Central Federation of Unions of Free Honduran Workers (Fecesitlih) supports the protest, and its Vice President Carlos Spilbury said: "We had foreseen the militarization of some institutions; however, the strikers will continue in their work place, protesting in a peaceful manner."

Francisco Guerrero, secretary general of the powerful Confederation of Honduran Workers (CHT), which together with Fecesitlih comprises 250,000 workers, criticized the authorities as "their actions demonstrate that we are under a government of force, even though they appear to cry out for a dialogue." Guerrero warned that all the CTH workers could join the strike. This could affect government and private sectors, depending on the strikes' progress.

Also, the United Federation of Honduran Workers (FUTH), that has approximately 50,000 members that control several state institutions, has stated its support for Fecesitlih.

President Rafael Callejas' government, in a last-minute attempt to avert the strike, offered to meet the workers' demands, but the workers wanted immediate and specific solutions. Besides the salary increases, the workers demanded a freeze on the prices of basic family products which have skyrocketed 100 percent as a result of the economic measures implemented by President Callejas' government. However, the government rejected this demand.

The government offered an overall salary increase of $8.4 million for approxiamtely 50,000 public workers, but Fecesitlih demanded $10 million.

Work Minister Rodolfo Rosales warned that the strike will be declared illegal and, in that case, the workers will not get paid.

Nicaragua

Police Evict Disabled Veterans From TV Station

PA0904153291 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] The disabled veterans who yesterday seized the studios of Channel 6 have been evicted by the police. During the incident, several of the disabled were beaten.

The objective of the protest by the disabled, most of whom are war crippled, was to demand higher pensions and benefits, given the increase in the cost of living and the limited resources they receive from the state.

Evelio Jarquin [not further identified] has said that the takeover of the Channel 6 studios was carried out to demonstrate the importance of their social demands.

Sandinist People's Army Announces New Personnel

PA1004014091 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 3 Apr 91 p 12

[Text] In a communique issued yesterday, the Armed Forces Command announced that Colonel Antenor Rosales has been appointed new Sandinist People's Army Chief of Information and Military Security.

Rosales replaces Lieutenant Colonel Ricardo Wheelock Roman who has been designated Public and Foreign Relations Director. Wheelock Roman takes the place of Lieutenant Colonel Rosa Pasos, who has retired.

Finally, Colonel Pedro Argucia Moncada, who had been the director of the Carlos Aguero Military School, has been designated Chief of the 1st Military Region, which includes the Esteli, Madriz, and Nueva Segovia departments.

Panama

Armed Individuals Open Fire on Arnulfist Offices

Retreat to University Campus

PA0904124891 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 1218 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Report by Celso Contreras at the University of Panama in Panama City—live]

[Text] Good morning listeners. I have a report on an incident that took place last night. Information from administrative personnel of the University of Panama indicates that unidentified individuals, who had fired machine guns at the headquarters of the Arnulfist Party, tried to take refuge on the University of Panama campus as they were being pursued by members of the Judicial Technical Police [PTJ]. One half of the university gate leading to the Social Security Fund hospital was demolished and the other half was partially torn down by the unidentified individuals who tried to ram the gate in a Rocky [Daihatsu] jeep-type vehicle. The vehicle has already been removed by the PTJ.

The university is now closed. No classes will be held. The rector's office is expected to issue a communique on the situation sometime this morning. University security personnel are guarding the campus. A search of the various university departments is expected to determine if the individuals who fled toward the university are still on the campus with the weapons they used last night. Students who were unaware of the situation are now leaving the campus. We are still waiting to hear the university authorities' authorization for a search of the university to find the individuals who might still be on the campus.

No Injuries; Office Was Empty

PA0904185391 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1752 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] Last night, two unidentified individuals fired shots at the headquarters of the Arnulfist Party and later hid at the university. In reporting this incident, university authorities have stated that no trace of these persons was found during a search of the university campus. The attackers left the car they used in an area close to the university. For that reason, classes and administrative functions were suspended until the incident was clarified.

Reinaldo Medina, alternate member of the Arnulfist Party Provincial Directorate, tells his version of the events.

[Begin recording] [Medina] We usually leave at 2200. At 2300 a black car drove by at high speed, stopped in front of the building, and fire from several machine guns rang out. Thank God, no one was in the building, otherwise today we would be mourning the tragic death of an Arnulfist member.

[Unidentified reporter] Were there any direct bullet hits on the building's facade?

[Medina] You can see them.

[Reporter] How about damage to the building?

[Medina] Bullets hit the facade. A large number of windows were broken. Here you have proof—the cartridges that were found. [end recording]

Also, Arnulfist Party Acting President Francisco Artola has this to add:

[Begin Artola recording] I do not dare make any accusations, but I must say that citizens and Arnulfists—who are many in this country—must be on alert and must themselves become investigators, because that is the only way we can end these attacks. [end recording]

Endara Condemns Armed Attack

PA1004022891 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2310 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] President Guillermo Endara has commented on the attack on the Arnulfist Party offices and said that history repeats itself.

[Endara] "This is an old party thing. Check history. Since 1931 the Arnulfist parties have always been attacked, supposedly with the intention of intimidating us, but they will never achieve that.

[Unidentified reporter] "The Christian Democratic Party [PDC] has stated that their party and the alliance have been betrayed.

[Endara] "I would like to turn the page with the PDC. I had very strong words for the PDC yesterday. I do not take them back, but starting today, now that they are an opposition party, I would like to turn the page and recognize their good points. In due time and as events take place I will address them under circumstances very different than those under which I did yesterday. They have very good attributes and those are the ones I will try to emphasize from now on, not those attributes I pointed out yesterday. In that sense, I want to turn the page."

President Endara said that he has no knowledge about the accusations of political espionage against Vice President Arias Calderon.

[Endara] "That affair does not concern me. I am not an investigative authority. That concerns the Attorney General's Office or the DRP [Directorate for the Recovery of State Property]

[Reporter] "Will you rule by decree?

[Endara] "Pardon me.

[Reporter] "Will you rule by decree?

[Endara] "No, no, no. Look, Guillermo Endara, the Arnulfist Party, the whole human group that makes up this government, and even the group that now forms the opposition, which is the PDC, are all people who believe in democracy and the Constitution. Nothing will make me rule this country if it is not through constitutional means. There will be decrees—constitutional decrees—which means that I will dictate a decree only when I have the authority to dictate a decree on something. But when I have to dictate a law, it will go to the Assembly and the Assembly will decide."

Endara also rejected the possibility of removing the attorney general from office.

[Endara] "I cannot dismiss him. I do not know why Ricardo Arias Calderon is now blaming me about Cruz. I cannot dismiss Rogelio Cruz. Rogelio Cruz is the attorney general of the Republic. It is an appointment that I made. It was ratified by the Assembly, and I cannot dismiss him. I cannot change anything there."

PDC Legislators Denounce Change in Government

PA0904211291 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 9 Apr 91 p2a

["Manifesto to the Nation" issued by Christian Democratic Party legislators in Panama City on 8 April]

[Text] In light of the break within the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance [ADOC] provoked by the unilateral decision of President Guillermo Endara Galimany, the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] legislators express to the nation their disagreement with the president's decision to expel all the PDC ministers and deputy ministers from the cabinet. Nevertheless, this error by the head of the executive branch will not frustrate the Panamanian formula that the ADOC presented to the country in 1989 in its agenda for national reconstruction.

That Panamanian formula called for facing the crisis with responsibility and with a great and intense personal effort, which would overcome the concept of only making accusations. It called for a government committed to the principles of liberty, justice, democracy, and a social market economy. We also said the government of reconstruction would be capable of restoring Panamanians' trust in their institutions. It is precisely ADOC's formal commitment to the people that the president violated by carrying out his 5 April threat to respond "blow for blow to the Christian Democrats." He publicly dismissed, on television and without any prior dialogue, all the PDC ministers and deputy ministers, unfortunately imitating the methods used in the past by the members of the military.

This incomprehensible action by the president has lowered the country into a deep depression, and there is fear that the bad times of repression, persecution, and violation of human rights will return.

Because of these reasons, the PDC legislators publicly promise to the Panamanian people that they will fulfill the obligations made in April 1989. Therefore, all the laws that seek to reactivate the economy, reestablish the international competitiveness of our products, and attack unemployment and poverty will have our complete support and backing, because, despite the fact that the president abrogated the alliance, the PDC legislators feel committed to that social vision. Guillermo Endara Galimany's conduct will not make us change that opinion because, above him, his conduct and that of his advisers, is our promise to fulfill the patriotic task of building a new country where justice will be done and the common good will prevail over the individual benefits of those who hold power.

Vice President Ford: No Talks Held With PRD

PA0904192291 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] Second Vice President Guillermo Ford today said that no talks are being held with the Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD].

[Begin recording] [Ford] Everything has been said. My honest opinion is that all politicians of all parties—I am stating of all parties—who have a responsibility must fulfill their role and work as best as possible so that the country will benefit from democracy.

[Unidentified reporter] What points are going to be discussed today [at the cabinet meeting]?

[Ford] Everything that I have been discussing with the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank [IDB], and the IMF. We will analyze these discussions so that the government can adopt its final positions.

[Reporter] Are you going to make any changes in the strategy?

[Ford] No, I am not going to change any economic strategy. We are going to continue on exactly the same path.

[Reporter] Specifically with regard to the meeting you will now hold in the Presidency, did you meet earlier this morning with the comptroller general?

[Ford] Yes.

[Reporter] What was the reason for your meeting?

[Ford] We met with the IDB representative. Specifically, we discussed the IRHE [Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification] and the Idaan [National Water and Sanitation Institute]. We have to clean up their financial situation so it will conform to what we call the contract-plan. In this way, those institutions can become creditworthy and we can rapidly inject the necessary funds. Also, there can be electricity in Panama all the time. That is not a program that can be approved and implemented immediately. As this might take two or three years, we have to begin working on this right away.

[Reporter] Turning to politics, the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] yesterday accused the parties which remain in the government of betraying and defrauding the people.

[Ford] I have not heard those words. I do not think that is the party's position. I have issued an appeal. I said very clearly last night, and I repeat now, that I respect Dr. Arias Calderon. He is my personal friend, and I am sure that the legislators of all parties, including those of the PDC, will work for the country.

[Reporter] Are there plans to appoint a new IRHE director?

[Ford] I understand the president will appoint a new one, but in any case, that falls under the mandate of the president.

[Reporter] Has any name been mentioned?

[Ford] I am unaware of any names.

[Reporter] Have the recent events been healthy for the country?

[Ford] I think these political disputes are a setback. I hope we can quickly overcome it. I am very pleased that both Molirena [National Liberal Republican Movement] and I personally did everything possible to prevent this, but these are situations that one cannot prevent.

[Reporter] Are there talks with the PRD?

[Ford] None. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Views Alliance, Image Abroad

PA1004001191 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 2227 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Interview with Foreign Minister Julio Linares by Jenny Lee Martinez and unidentified reporter in Panama City; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Linares] On the home front, I am very sorry that the alliance split. I would have liked to have seen the alliance maintained for at least another two years. This is not only a very personal opinion, but my party's opinion. As I have said before, unfortunately these political squabbles have weakened Panama's image even further, not only because of the political squabbles, but because of all the publicity given to them. We must understand that we need to direct all our efforts toward working for the country's sake. I have said several times before that either we learn how to live in a democracy, or we will end up devouring each other.

[Martinez] Is the government aware of what the Latin American countries—that have criticized us so much, including the invasion—will think of us following the events of these last few days?

[Linares] I believe you asked whether the government is aware. It is not a question of whether or not the government is aware—all Panamanians are aware. Panama is not the government.

[Martinez] It is the government that is doing the fighting, not the country's people.

[Linares] The political parties as well. I believe the problem is generalized. This includes the people who are running the government, the people who are part of the opposition, the trade unions, and the media. I believe the problem is generalized. A series of values were changed due to 21 years of dictatorship, but perhaps what is more important, it made us forget how to live in a free and democratic state. We all should have self-control. We citizens—and when I say we, I am referring to all Panamanians—seem to have lost that self-control we should all have, and fallen prey to senseless squabbles that are harming the country very much.

[Reporter] What are the plans to improve our image abroad?

[Linares] I think we, as individuals, must try to improve ourselves. All of us must start to improve ourselves as individuals. That is fundamental.

[Reporter] Will the status of those under asylum change?

[Linares] We plan to solve the problem of those under asylum as soon as possible.

[Reporter] How?

[Linares] I do not know yet.

[Martinez] Will safe-conducts be issued?

[Linares] We will solve the problem of those under asylum as soon as possible. It is a problem we cannot put off any longer.

[Martinez] Does this mean they may be issued safe-conducts?

[Linares] That is a possibility; correct, that could be one possibility. We do need to solve this problem.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Linares] I cannot say anything beyond what I have already said.

[Martinez] Will this benefit all or only some of those under asylum?

[Linares] If we are going to solve this, it means all of them; otherwise, it would only be a partial instead of a total solution.

[Reporter] Does this include the officers held in the reverted area?

[Linares] I said everyone.

Local Media Reaction to ADOC Breakup Noted

PA1G 1013791

[Editorial Report] The Panama City Spanish-language media on 9 April carry commentaries on President Guillermo Endara's decision to dismiss the Christian Democratic Party (PDC) ministers from his cabinet, effectively removing that party from the ruling Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance (ADOC).

Radio KW Continente at 1222 broadcasts a three-minute station commentary, which begins by noting that President Guillermo Endara's decision "did not surprise many people." It adds that political coalitions "cannot be permanent and maintaining them often becomes a very heavy burden, unless there is a tremendous dose of patience, selflessness, and generosity." The commentary adds: "It will now be up to the president, along with his new cabinet and advisers, to begin the uphill battle of guiding the ship of state along the path of jobs, efficiency, honesty, and sustained effort." It adds that the government will have a difficult, but not impossible, mission now that the Legislative Assembly is "against" him and expresses hope that worthy projects are not needlessly blocked merely for political reasons. "Henceforth, a new chapter in our much-exulted democracy is opening up, and we hope it will be more productive for the people than the previous 14 months of the democratic regime."

El SIGLO carries on page 4 a 450-word editorial entitled: "A Routine Step in Functional Democracy." The newspaper attributes tension among people caused by the cabinet crisis to a "lack of practice in the normal workings of democracy." It say that the changes, a frequent occurrence in many countries, do not have to produce "the unpredictable reactions" that some are forecasting. "Viewed from this angle, the changes in the national government are nothing other than an adjustment process, whereby the government structure undergoes changes to be in a position to better to serve what it deems are the nation's best interests," the editorial notes. The same newspaper, on page 4, carries the regular 400-word "Period and That Is It" column by Jaime Ortega. Today's column is entitled: "Scorpions, Vipers, and Tigers." Ortega says the Endara government is facing three major difficulties. The first is having a government full of "senile political figures." The second is that the president's advisers come from the Liberal Party, an old foe of Endara's mentor, the late Panamanian president Arnulfo Arias. Third, the military forces, "the worst enemy Arias supporters have always had," have not been totally purged, and newly appointed National Police Chief Gonzalo Menendez Franco is not the most appropriate man "to tame those tigers." Ortega asks: "If the PDC maintains its monolithic unity at the National Legislative Assembly, how will the government rule without the PRD (Revolutionary Democratic Party)?"

LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA on page A-4 carries a 900-word editorial entitled "The Restructuring of the Government," that describes recent developments as "a harsh blow" to the little progress Panamanian democracy has made and very bad for Panama's image abroad. On the impact of the changes in the National Legislative Assembly, it states: "That government branch has too many divisions and is always placing that body's final decisions in the hands of the PRD." It calls on all political sectors to reflect on the country's situation, so they can lead it toward national reconciliation. "With the first restructuring of the government carried out in democracy, those goals could be achieved," it adds. EL PANAMA AMERICA on page 4A carries a 400-word editorial entitled: "Disheartening Outlook." The editorial voices concern that these changes "will be followed by many more, perhaps more serious ones." Its adds that it is saddened by the "definite" rupture of ADOC. "The Endara administration loses its majority in the Legislative Assembly, and the PRD gets to cast the decisive votes," the editorial notes.

CRITICA LIBRE on page 4 carries a 350-word editorial entitled: "A Warning." The editorial regrets the removal of the PDC from the government and notes that it will not end the current political crisis. Those who think PDC legislators will suppport government projects are mistaken, the editorial says, adding that some government officials have hinted at a possible alliance with PRD. "It would seem the feeling is that the end justifies the means to lessen the PDC control in the National Legislative Assembly, which is why Endara's supporters do not shy away from being seen in public with political figures they rejected 15 months ago."

The same newspaper on page 4 carries the regular 400-word "The Other Trench" column by Boris Barrios. The author blames political infighting among parties within the alliance for its loss of credibility. He says the

alliance should have been maintained, because that is what the people voted for on 7 May 1989, "however, it seems some do not understand the historic commitment the current government has and placed their personal and partisan interests before the interests of the fatherland and the majority of the people," he states.

LA PRENSA on page 1A, carries its regular 250-word "As of Today" column, which states that in the face of increasing signals that problems within ADOC government were worse than imagined, no corrective measures were taken to settle disputes, and each party and its representatives wanted to prevail over the others. "The change of cabinet that months ago could have been done without major traumas has broken the ruling coalition, turning old allies into hated adversaries that will do everything within their reach to cause each other the greatest political harm, without considering the consequences this childish attitude can have for the Republic and the democratic restoration of its institutions," it concludes.

The same newspaper on page 32A carries the regular "In a Few Words" column by Guillermo Sanchez Borbon. A 150-word item from this column states that the ADOC rupture and the change of cabinet will lead to a turbulent period. "Has any problem been solved? No, the ring of greed, ignorance, and madness around the president has not been broken; it has not even become loose. Endara remains without exercising the leaderhip the nation is demanding," the author notes.

New Panama City Mayor Assumes Office, Comments

PA0904193091 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] Mayin Correa, the new mayor of Panama City, took office today at the Panamanian Presidency. The ceremony was held at the presidential palace in the presence of President Guillermo Endara and Government and Justice Minister Juan Chevalier.

[Begin Correa recording] I also want to tell [First Lady] Ana Mae that I respect and love her. She will find in me a friend who will always love her. [applause] I want to tell you, Mr. President, and friends of the cabinet what I am offering to your government and the Panamanian people: work and honesty. [applause] If I must leave this position before the end of the term that I am appointed to, you will never regret having appointed me. I will be with the people; the people who elected you and this government and who ousted the dictatorship. I will honor a hard struggle of many tears and I want to give a little more hope to the Panamanian people. [applause] [end recording]

People's Action Party Renews Call for Assembly

PA1004012891 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA on 9 Apr 91 pp A-1, B-10

[Communique issued by the People's Action Party in Panama City on 8 April]

[Text] The People's Action Party (Papo) has been observing how regrettably accurate all our warnings and predictions have been about the level of irresponsibility with which the ADO [Democratic Opposition Alliance] has been guiding the ship of state.

The current crisis in which our nation is emerged stems from a government that is totally estranged from the goals of a people that fought in the streets for better days for this suffering country.

Papo reiterates that, in light of the seriousness of the crisis affecting the country at all levels, the call to a National Constitutent Assembly becomes an unpostponable necessity. It is a necessity in light of the fact that the country is rapidly vanishing because of the political voracity of those in the government that cannot satisfy their unquenchable gluttony for greater power and control over the state apparatus.

There is no serious concern over the grave problems overwhelming the downtrodden majorities. The demagogic language that is being used reveals the mediocrity of those who regard the people as objects devoid of personality. This attitude will be evidenced in the upcoming sessions of the National Legislative Assembly that will be the scenario for the comings and goings of the former allies in their efforts to win the support of the political party of the Torrijist-Norieguist era, a party that will thus become the deadly and decisive factor in the future politics of the state.

The unimportant change of figures, the pretenses, and the shallow promises reflect that there is no great concern for a national project and set the tone that prevails now in the public debate.

In the face of that attitude that aims to create a limited Panamanian democracy with a stunted concept of the the country's reality, Papo is proposing before the people to have a serious debate that sets the guidelines to follow and to face the well-known needs in the fields of health, education, housing, and justice, which the country is experiencing, and to fight effectively the scourges of hunger, unemployment, crime, military rearmament, the foreign debt, and the feeling of insecurity among the citizens.

That debate can only take place in a big national dialogue and that dialogue can only take place in a constitutent assembly that drafts new political structures through which the power of the people that stems from the nation is to be exercised. This way, the people will be ensured a constant participation in the decisions that affect the Panamanian state, securing the establishment of a permanent democracy.

Paper Says U.S. Embassy 'Leaked' DEA Document

PA1004030791 Panama City EL DIARIO INDEPENDIENTE in Spanish 8 Apr 91 p 4

[From the "Footsteps and Faces" column]

[Text] **Deane Hinton**

The U.S. Embassy has issued a communique stating that because of the actions of certain agents who leaked a document on investigations being carried out by the DEA, other investigations into a case that has not been closed have been hindered. The strategy of Hinton and associates becomes quite clear when we look closely and see that on the eve of signing the Mutual Legal Assistance Agreement, the U.S. Embassy states that the blame falls solely and exclusively on the Panamanian laws that are currently very flexible and attract criminal elements from around the world. For the time being, we will hold off on commenting further on this, but we will make further charges later, and in a spectacular manner.

Gerardo Gonzalez

How did he come by the document that has been talked about so much? Far from being a mystery, the answer to this and other questions has turned out to be quite obvious. There are many different ways of destabilizing a government, or rather of pressuring and achieving objectives. At times, even "diplomatic innocence" is used. This means that confidential documents are left in plain sight and enough time is given for them to be photographed or copied; however, the original document is never removed from its place.

This innocent strategy has its advantage. If things do not turn out as expected, strict silence is observed and answers are restricted to the phrase: "No comment."

If things turn out as expected, communiques denying the document's contents are issued, and one or two seeds of discord are dropped in the process. Gerardo Gonzalez was the instrument. This, far from making him grow politically, has proved to the gringos that he is a docile legislator who can be used for entanglement depending on the circumstances.

Endara's Mother-in-Law Reportedly Named Adviser

PA0904170691 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 6 Apr 91 p 5

[From the "Leaks and Tips" column]

[Text] President Guillermo Endara has 35 advisers, each of whom earns a salary of no less than $2,500 [period of time not specified]. The presidential advisers abound in a civilian government that promised it would not have as many advisers as the military did. The most recent appointment to the corps of presidential advisers is Carolina Chen de Diaz, the first lady's mother. We are sure that Ana Mae's mother will do a great job of advising her presidential relative.

Argentina

Duhalde Opens Trilateral Anti-Drug Meeting

PY1004025891 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1502 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Apr (TELAM)—Vice President Eduardo Duhalde has urged people not to be afraid of drug traffickers "because those who do not have the courage to confront others whom they realize are doing terrible damage to their children do not deserve to call themselves men."

Duhalde said: "Many people tell me that it is dangerous to harp on this issue. There are some businessmen who tell me: 'I'll send you the check but do not ask me to attend the meetings.' I tell them that even the most fearful animals like chickens come out to face the aggressors when their chicks are touched."

Duhalde added: "Drug trafficking moves like a hidden enemy, deploying its impressive corrupting power against politicians, policemen, military men, and the media because the closer it is to power, the more easily it functions."

Duhalde made these remarks this morning upon opening the first trilateral meeting of forces operating against illegal drug trafficking. The meeting is attended by representatives of the governments and security organizations of Argentina, Paraguay, and Bolivia.

In the opening speech Duhalde said: "We have to take joint measures to confront this scourge which has no borders and sees Latin America as a single territory for its actions."

He added: "Despite the economic problems we are facing and the fact that our democracies are young, we must unite to guard our children because this infamous business is closely linked to AIDS."

Alberto Lestelle, secretary of prevention and struggle against drug trafficking, also delivered a speech. He explained that the purpose of the meeting "is for the three countries to act in a coordinated manner because we know that the cartels leaving Colombia will definitely settle in our areas."

Lestelle added: "We will specifically concentrate on the control of drug trafficking and other related crimes such as car smuggling—cars are exchanged for marihuana in Paraguay and for cocaine in Bolivia—or the control over the smuggling of psychotropic drugs and precursors which are stolen in our country and sold in Brazil and Paraguay respectively."

Lestelle said that some of the measures to be adopted to combat those crimes include "the installation of radars in the border regions and the establishment of dates and mechanisms for joint operations."

The trilateral meeting which opened in the Bauen Hotel today will continue this week. The activities include visits to specific units of the Federal Police, the Gendarmerie, and the Prefecture.

Rebel Officer Seineldin Defends Uprising

PY0904183791 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0125 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 5 Apr (NA)—Mohamed Ali Seineldin, leader of the Painted Faces, has warned that "the reasons that accentuated the need to make the Army return to its essential values still stand." He made it clear he was not sorry for having ordered the uprising on 3 December 1990 "because that was the last chance to reverse an uncontrollably anarchic situation" within the Army ranks.

Seineldin added that the cause of the Painted Faces "goes far beyond" him as an individual and, thus, "its principles have not disappeared and will not disappear as long as its far-reaching underlying causes are not removed once and for all."

Seineldin said: "It does not matter how many setbacks a military institution sustains, it will not be defeated if it persists in its decision to pursue its goal. Other times and other people will come, but the motives will remain identical because the reasons that accentuated the need to make the Army return to its essential values still stand."

In remarks to the magazine SOMOS, Seineldin also admitted that "the Army and its leaders are not free" from economic corruption.

Seineldin said: "We are more concerned about the corruption that undermines intelligence, truth, justice, and moral values. We are not only referring to economic corruption, of which our institution and its leaders are not free."

He charged that President Carlos Menem "is losing legitimacy every day" because "he has failed to honor the promises he made to the various sectors of society."

Seineldin also said that, "as a citizen," he is "willing to assume the role required by the circumstances to carry on a national salvation front."

He also urged Army officials "to understand that only true justice and a genuine leadership will save the institution."

Commenting on the 3 December uprising, Seineldin said that the target of the Painted Faces "was the Army, not the government." He noted that "had it not been for the death" in combat of two loyal officers, "many officers" would have joined the uprising.

[Words indistinct] Seineldin said that the contending forces consisted of "members of the same family" and, therefore, "an effort has always been made to avoid combat."

He added: "The objective here was not to kill an enemy because there was no enemy and because nothing could be achieved here under those conditions."

Israeli Consulate Attacked in Mendoza City

PY1004020691 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2255 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] Mendoza, 9 Apr (NA) — Provincial police reported today that three men in an automobile shot at the Israeli Consulate in this city.

It has been reported that the incident occurred on the afternoon of 8 April and that a police officer who was on guard came through the attack unscathed.

According to the police officer, three individuals were driving along Rodriguez Street in a Renault Fuego coupe without license plates.

When they reached the 800 block, the individuals began to fire at the front of the consulate and at the police officer, who saved his life by diving to the ground.

The individuals then escaped at high speed along the same street. At the moment their identities and their whereabouts are unknown.

Bolivia

Union Calls For Nationwide Workers' 'Stoppage'

To Protest U.S. 'Intervention'

PY0804163991 La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish 1100 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Announcement from the Bolivian Labor Confederation read by unidentified announcer; place and date not given]

[Text] In support of our dignity and our sovereignty, and to protest the sellout of our natural resources, all Bolivians are invited to the nationwide stoppage on Tuesday, 9 April during which we will express our rejection of the U.S. intervention in our national territory.

Long live the Bolivian Labor Confederation; Long live free and independent Bolivia.

[Signed] Bolivian Labor Confederation, COB.

Strike Begins Despite Warning

PY0904144091 La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] The 24-hour strike sponsored by all Bolivian labor sectors began at 0000 today to protest the militarization of anti-drug struggle and the approval of the mining code in Bolivia.

Daniel Santalla, secretary general of the Bolivian Labor Confederation [COB], said that the strike and demonstrations called for today fall within the framework of national dignity due to the entry of U.S. troops into the country.

[Begin Santalla recording] We are observing the 24-hour strike, as was decided at the COB's national meeting, to reject the approval of the militarization of the anti-drug struggle and of the mining code. [end recording]

At a meeting yesterday between Labor Minister Oscar Zamora Medinacelli and COB leaders, Zamora Medinacelli asked the union leaders to suspend the strike in view of the fact that negotiations between COB leaders and executive branch representatives were to resume today within the framework of the national agreement.

[Begin Zamora Medinacelli recording] On behalf of the government, I urge the COB to suspend the strike in view of the accord signed with the COB. The government will comply with all its commitments, and it hopes the COB will cooperate by maintaining normalcy in the country. If the COB decides to carry out this action, the Labor Ministry will be forced to declare the strike illegal. Consequently, those who do not report to work will not be paid for the day. We hope workers will consider this measure. [end recording]

MNR Breaks Relations With Ruling Government

PY0904171891 La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Report from Santa Cruz de la Sierra]

[Text] The Nationalist Revolutionary Movement [MNR] last night announced its decision to break off all relations with the current Patriotic Agreement government in light of the its representatives' unwillingness to comply with their commitments. This decision was announced by MNR chief Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada at a ceremony commemorating the Revolution of 9 April 1952.

Sanchez de Lozada cited the fact that the MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] and the ADN [Nationalist Democratic Action] have not complied with the accord signed at the Nunciature by the three presidential candidates who received the most votes nor the most recent agreement on electoral reforms, trials of judges, and the decentralization process, which was signed on 5 February.

Sanchez de Lozada said: We will no longer negotiate with this anti-constitutional and de facto government but only with people's institutions, discussing the huge problems that concern us such as education, health, and food. He also described the government as authoritarian and antidemocratic because of its actions against the judicial branch.

Sanchez de Lozada refused to accept an invitation from MIR-New Majority leader Oscar Eid Franco to participate in a public debate on corruption. In a news conference, Eid Franco said Sanchez de Lozada could not refuse to participate in the debate, considering he had charged the government with corruption. Eid Franco proposed that each party send three leaders with proven high moral character to try to find in-depth solutions to corruption.

Sanchez de Lozada said that the debate must be conducted by the MIR and the ADN, which are the responsible for the government and have been charged with corruption. We are not being charged with robbery, he said. They are in charge of the government and they must meet to try to solve this situation. Sanchez de Lozada added that even the interior minister was ousted on charges of corruption and that there are still 40 more thieves.

Journalists asked Eid Franco to provide clear answers to the charges of corruption but received no answer. Charges have been filed against Enfe [National Railway Enterprise], Entel [National Telecommunications Enterprise], and Asana-Viru Viru [expansion unknown], but so far no action has been taken to prosecute or discharge those responsible for corruption. In view of the critical situation, Freddy Terrazas, chairman of the the pro-Santa Cruz committee, said yesterday that that ruling parties seem to be managing government institutions as if they were political booty.

ADN-MIR Alliance To Continue After 1993

PY0504150191 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 24 Mar 91 p 1

[Text] The current alliance of the Nationalist Democratic Action [ADN] and the Movement of the Revolutionary Left [MIR], which supports the government of President Jaime Paz Zamora, will continue beyond 1993. This announcement was made by General Hugo Banzer Suarez during a speech he delivered on 23 March to mark the 12th anniversary of the ADN. He said: "The Patriotic Agreement will continue beyond the constitutional term of this administration. We have assumed a total and absolute commitment, and nobody should cling to the fleeting hope that our decision to remain together could change."

Banzer harshly criticized opposition parties and described their behavior as "antidemocratic and antinational." He rejected their "superficial" methods of assessing the current government's action and regretted the attitude of those who resort to "lies and slander campaigns to aggravate" the governors, including the president himself, and to reject the government's achievements.

He charged the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement [MNR] with "retaliating" and criticized the structure of the opposition coordinating board. Banzer said: "Is it not contradictory and unacceptable that, in an effort to promote destabilization, the MNR is encouraging the COB [Bolivian Labor Federation] to act against the economic model it promoted and demanded?" He also urged that "we strike back against those who attack us."

Commenting on the ADN's situation, Banzer said that "it is stronger than ever." The strength of the ADN, he said, "is based on the mature way in which it has understood the limits of each party's hegemony and pluralism as a basis for reaching agreements."

"The ADN is a single party," he noted. Banzer said differences of opinion are "legitimate" and pointed out that the ADN would become "inflexible if it sought to disrupt party discipline."

Paz Zamora Postpones Trip to France, Sweden

PY0904035291 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] President Jaime Paz Zamora has postponed his trip to Europe because he has to deal with important matters at home. Gustavo Fernandez, minister secretary general of the Presidency, explained the reasons for the president's decision. He said the president of the Republic talked to French President Francois Mitterrand and to Swedish Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson on 2 April and asked them to understand his decision to postpone to a new date his acceptance of the invitations to visit their countries. These visits were originally scheduled to take place from 25 to 27 April, and from 28 to 30 April, respectively.

President Paz Zamora has reported that very important national matters require his direct and personal attention during that time. He was essentially referring to his interest in accelerating the pace of public investments, increasing the rate of growth and employment, and following closely the process of structural reform and modernization of the state.

Chile

Poll on Army-Government Relations, Terrorism

PY0904173991 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 4 Apr 91 p 12

[Excerpts] We are publishing the results of an opinion poll that was conducted in 33 districts of Greater Santiago where a representative sample of 622 people of the various socio-economic classes were surveyed.

Fifty-five percent of Chileans believe that relations between the Armed Forces and the Government are

normal, 25.1 percent believe they are barely normal, and 18.3 percent believe relations are bad.

That is one of the main conclusions drawn from the public opinion poll that was conducted by the Gemines organization in 33 districts of Greater Santiago, where a representative sample of 622 people of all socio-economic classes was polled.

The poll, the results of which were predicted by LA TERCERA yesterday, also confirmed that crime and terrorism continue to be for the majority of the population the most serious and worrisome problems in the life of the nation.

During each home visit, persons of 18 years or older were polled. The statistical error percentage has been calculated at no more than 4 percent.

The opinion poll also showed that 44.9 percent of the population considers the first year of the Aylwin Government to be good, 38.3 considers it fair, and 10.1 percent considers it very good. [passage omitted]

Terrorism is now a greater problem than it was under the previous regime in the opinion of 39.1 percent, 39.2 percent believes it is the same, and 21.2 percent believes the situation is less serious. [passage omitted]

As for their attitude toward the government, 67.2 percent said they were in favor, 16.9 percent said they were opponents, and 12.5 percent said they were independent. [passage omitted]

Regarding the Armed Forces, 34.7 percent said that they have great confidence in them, 33.9 percent said that they have only fair confidence in them, and 31.2 percent said that they have little confidence in them. [passage omitted]

Leftist Party Holds First Congress Since 1973

PY0904215091 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 1700 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] The Movement of the Revolutionary Left, MIR, has rejected confrontation or military threat as a way to resolve the democratic transition problems.

MIR Political Committee Coordinator Nelson Gutierrez made this statement upon announcing the resolutions of the 5th MIR General Congress held between 29 and 31 March. The congress—the first to be held in Chile since 11 September 1973—was attended by 300 militants along with international guests and guests from the Chilean left.

Nelson Gutierrez said that the MIR pledged to support the government by helping the democratic transition.

[Begin Gutierrez recording] We want a Chile for everyone, with a new democracy for all Chileans. To this end, the MIR has agreed to develop a policy of increasing unity among the left, to develop and contribute to the organization and strengthening of a broad popular movement. This will carry weight in the national decisions, complete the reorganization of the MIR, and advance toward the construction of a new legal political movement of the masses that will register as a party open to all those who support democracy and socialism. [end recording]

The MIR leader also reported that the central committee is made up of 21 members and that the political committee is made up of seven leaders.

Gutierrez criticized some analysis of violence, indicating that violence cannot be controlled by restricting rights. He added that the problem of political violence does not jeopardize the democratic transition process.

[Begin Gutierrez recording] We believe that the diagnosis that has been made on the situation of violence and terrorism in Chile is insufficient because it has been restricted to the opinion voiced by the intelligence corps of the Carabineros and the Armed Forces. We further believe it is the foremost responsibility of the government, and indeed of all democrats, to establish in Chile as soon as possible a commission of academicians, experts in analyzing situations of political violence. [end recording]

The MIR leader also expressed his concern over the statement by Deputy Jorge Schaulsohn about the Communist Party as this, in his opinion, involves all leftist organizations. He added that differing opinions are permissible, but one must not support the exclusion that some sectors are seeking.

PCCh Communique Decries 'Broad Offensive'

PY1004034691 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 5 Apr 91 p C4

[Text] In a communique, the Communist Party of Chile [PCCh] has reported "violent raids" in shantytowns as well as an alleged campaign against leftist parties, including the PCCh which attributes this campaign to "ultraright" sectors.

The PCCh also protested an editorial in a morning newspaper, which, the PCCh claims, raises a proposal designed to declare illegal the leftist parties, beginning with the PCCh and the MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left].

The PCCh communique begins by stating: "The PCCh reports that, using Jaime Guzman's assassination, which we have categorically condemned, ultraright sectors are taking to the extreme a broad offensive against our country's democratic stability."

Moving on, the PCCh communique points out that the government is being pressured in order to reduce its authority "and to overwhelm it, removing its ministers from office, and, at the same time, seeking to estrange it from the popular democratic political forces."

After pointing out that through an editorial an attempt is being made to have the PCCh and the MIR declared illegal, the PCCh states: "This is a very serious event that must be considered by all the democratic parties and the government iself."

The communique states: "All this is taking place amid other events that we have the duty to report, such as the violent raids in shantytowns, the indiscriminate detention of former 'political prisoners,' and the creation of an atmosphere of suspicion directed at the exiles."

Senate Vice President Beltran Urenda Joins UDI

PY1004024291 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Summary] Senate Vice President Beltran Urenda, who was elected senator as an independent, today joined the Independent Democratic Union, UDI. As a consequence, the UDI once again has two representatives in the Senate.

Jarpa Declines Protection After Death Threat

PY0904125491 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] Senator Sergio Onofre Jarpa of the National Renewal [RN] has said that he is against police protection despite having received a new threat which was reported by his party today.

[Begin recording] [Jarpa] Look, I am a fatalist. A person will die when the Lord decides. Of course, the government has to implement measures to defend society, public order, and the security of people's lives. Therefore, the time has come to stop announcing projects, the creation of study commissions, and all those things. It is time for concrete measures. We have been saying for several days that the number of Carabineros must be increased and that their equipment—which I believe is obsolete and ineffective for their mission—should be replaced. We need less talk, less fooling around, less brass, fewer declarations, and more action. I do not know why we have to wait to resolve things that should have been resolved long ago. [end recording]

Jarpa was told that his party asked the Interior Ministry for police protection for him.

[Begin Jarpa recording] I did not know the party had asked. I do not expect to have any special protection. The Carabineros have too many commitments and a large shortage of personnel and equipment. Therefore, I do not want to be blamed for putting a heavier burden on the Carabineros. I do not need special protection. I believe that all Chileans should continue carrying out their tasks and activities without asking for special protection, because special protection cannot be given to everyone who asks for it. There must be overall protection, and the government must implement the measures once and for all. [end recording]

It is necessary for good intentions to become concrete actions, said Jarpa in a conversation with reporters after returning from a trip to the Seventh Region this afternoon.

Acting Foreign Minister on Border Problems

PY0904202991 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] Acting Foreign Minister Edmundo Vargas has announced the criteria that Chile will use to deal with the problem of the border in Laguna del Desierto in the 11th Region.

[Begin Vargas recording] We first want to solve this disagreement with Argentina through direct negotiations based on the implementation of the 1941 Treaty, that is, within the powers of the Mixed Border Commission, as this would involve defining the zone between boundary Post 62 and Monte Fitz Roy.

Our second choice would be—if we are not able reach an agreement through direct negotiations—to resort to the procedures established in the 1984 Peace and Friendship Treaty, that is, a procedure involving conciliation or arbitration. [end recording]

FPMR Spokesman on Reasons for Violence

PY1004001091 Santiago APSI in Spanish 25 Mar-7 Apr 91 pp 10, 11

["Text" of interview with Alfredo Malbrich, official spokesman of the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front, by APSI magazine; place and date not given]

[Text] [APSI] How responsible for the climate of violence is the FPMR [Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front]?

[Malbrich] The FPMR has repeatedly explained that it is not in favor of violent actions in the country's current situation. We think the actions that have taken place lately only serve the rightists and their strategy to destabilize this transition and frustrate the democratic transformations the country requires. We have repeatedly asserted that we will not be the ones to hinder this transition.

These campaigns, which intend to discredit those who fought the dictatorship, only serve to divert attention from a truth the country knows: Terrorists are those who committed crimes universally typified as lese-humanity crimes, not the patriots who stood up to them.

[APSI] Does the FPMR have concrete information that can justify thinking that the criminal attacks are coming from the rightists?

[Malbrich] The country knows that Pinochet's security apparatus is mounting operations to make leftist sectors responsible for the violent actions and to justify criminal repression. It must not be forgotten that prior to the 1973 coup, the right created a climate similar to the

present one. The country knows that not only are the actions similar, but the actors are the same: It was Fatherland and Freedom yesterday; today it is Pablo Rodriguez and Fuentes Welding, the founders of that movement which was responsible for terrorist attacks like the murders of General Schneider and Commander Arturo Araya, naval aide of President Allende. Just like then, the priest Hasbun and characters like Mr. Guzman and others intervene politically to hinder the democratization process, while criminals like Albaro Corvalan and many others who continue at large with impunity keep this process under the permanent threat of the use of force.

[APSI] What background facts can the FPMR present to support the assertion that these attacks come "from the repressive apparatus linked with Pinochet"?

[Malbrich] I will answer with a question: Who contrived the allegation that a plan against the Supreme Court justices existed?

[APSI] You answer....

[Malbrich] General Oscar Tapia, chief of the Carabineros Metropolitian Zone, said that "at no time did Carabineros report the existence of a plan against the Supreme Court justices." It is clear then that such a plan did not exist. We affirm that this maneuver is part of a plan of reaction against the Rettig Report that can be traced to CAPE (Army Political Advisers Committee) and the Pinochet's security organs, which remain intact and have budgets approved by Congress.

[APSI] What is the FPMR opinion of the Lautaro Group?

[Malbrich] We see the Lautaro Group as a product of the dictatorship, the expression of defiance of society's outcast sectors. It is a movement which advocates a very elementary ideology and which expresses itself through slogans such as "All for the People" or "Let Us Take It All".

We are not discarding the possibility that the CNI [National Intelligence Center] is manipulating that movement. There is information confirming this possibility. Let me remind you of the case reported by a publication in which an agent who used the name "Miguel" in districts such as Villa Francia recruited youths on behalf of the Lautaro Group to carry out armed actions.

When he was discovered he set up an ambush in which two youths who were allegedly going to put a bomb at a light post were killed.

[APSI] What is the FPMR opinion of the armed actions admitted by the Lautaro Group such as the murder of the military doctor and his wife in Rancagua?

[Malbrich] We have publicly expressed our rejection of such an action. We believe that it is necessary to clarify its real origin. If this is done, I believe that the country will have more than one surprise.

[APSI] How do you believe the democratic government can guarantee public order if it does not have a monopoly on power?

[Malbrich] This government does not have control over the state armed organizations. They continue under Pinochet and the other chiefs who were part of the dictatorship. They have their own budget and laws which guarantee them their autonomy from civilian power. In other words, they are not subordinate to the democratically elected officials. This is an essential element which shows that the current institutionality is not democratic.

Furthermore, people who committed crimes and supported the dictatorship remain in the armed organizations. As long as this condition prevails, no official elected within the framework of the 1980 Constitution will be able to guarantee that these forces will not be used against democracy. Therefore, it is necessary to dismantle the institutions created by the dictatorship and to replace them with real democratic institutions resulting from the free expression of the people's will. In addition to that it is necessary to purge the Armed Forces and the police of members who were responsible for human rights violations and to carry out the necessary changes in the organizations' structure and formation in order to guarantee their full support for the democratic principles and their obedience to the officials elected by the people.

[APSI] Is there a need for the FPMR to continue existing as an armed organization?

[Malbrich] We advocate the strengthening of democracy, and this goes beyond the government action alone. Breaking down the dictatorial institutions requires the people's participation. Within this framework this means facing the risk of a violent armed reaction from those who advocate continuismo as well as the need to be willing and ready to defend the democratic process.

Paraguay

Colorados Urged To Vote in Internal Elections

PY1004023091 Asuncion Red Nacional de Television in Spanish 0029 GMT 10 Apr 91

["Message to the Colorado people" by President Andres Rodriguez from Independence Hall of Government House in Asuncion on 10 April; italicized passages in Guarani—live]

[Text] My dear and esteemed fellow party members:

A few days before the internal elections to elect the candidates who will represent the Colorado Party in the municipal elections on 26 May 1991, I have considered it timely and necessary to address the Colorado Party members in view of the singular weight of a transcendental event for the good march of the democratic process fervently desired by the Paraguayan people.

The fact of having reached, with legitimate pride, the presidency of the nation as a candidate for the National Republican Association, the Colorado Party, causes me to have a right and a duty to do this in order to make a cordial call for Colorado Party members to participate with enthusiasm and a high democratic spirit in the elections that all of us hope will represent a starting point for the final institutional normalization of our century-old political association.

The Colorado Party has well-earned merits through its long presence in the national civic life. Its most illustrious thinkers and leaders were the ones who established in the Paraguay of contemporary times the democratic institutions and have contributed to the meaning of the struggle for liberty and social justice.

Today, our primary duty consists of regaining, maintaining, and increasing that noble tradition to resume the march toward an auspicious future after a prolonged period of authoritarianism that tarnished that rich history.

No doubt that we have embarked upon a difficult but, at the same time, exciting task. The Colorado Party must organize itself in order to provide a response and meet the demands of social and cultural progress involved in the current transition process.

Colorado Party political structures must be able to deal with society's huge demand for participation and vindication.

Now that we are passing along the broad path of public freedom, the exercise of the direct vote and the right to elect and be elected, consecrated by the electoral code, are accomplishments that have been incorporated to the citizenry's patrimony. As such, they must be exercised with responsibility and with the full conviction that the people's desire will be respected and that no Colorado Party member, regardless of the sector to which he or she may belong, will be the target of pressures or threats that could condition or manipulate the freedom of his or her self-determination.

As members of the Colorado Pary, which has the responsibility for government actions, all of us Colorados must be examples and witnesses of coexistence and civic maturity, avoiding intolerance and aggressiveness among fellow party members and calmly accepting the verdict of the polls.

As honorary president of our political association, I harbor a firm conviction that the Colorado people, with whom I feel and will always feel profoundly identified, will go to the polls on Sunday, 14 April, with their eyes set on the future, with the joy of playing now the main role in their self-realization, and with renewed commitment to consolidate our civic majority at the service of the nation's lofty and permanent interests.

My fellow party members, let us all help one another with joy, love, and joviality to raise our red banner [Colorado Party flag] very high so as to have it entwine our tricolor [Paraguayan] flag at the top of the mast, so that General Bernardino Caballero [founder of the Colorado Party] will be able to see it from heaven swaying in the wind, so that he will feel joy for what we have done.

To achieve this, my fellow party members, we must select and choose very well our candidates, so that they will make us win in the 26 May elections. As the horse racers say: We must win from beginning to end and by several lengths. God willing, it will be so.

Thank you.

National Assembly To Meet on Constitution

PY0904223491 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 9 Apr 91 p 10

[Excerpt] Senate President Gustavo Diaz de Vivar has released the resolution calling for a meeting of the National Assembly. This assembly, which must decide whether the Constitution should be amended or not, will meet on 12 June 1991, in a place to be duly determined.

The National Assembly is made up of the congressmen and the Council of State, and it must decide on the need for a constitutional amendment. The National Assembly will meet on 12 June 1991. This decision by Gustavo Diaz de Vivar, Senate and National Assembly president, was released this morning at the regular Senate session.

The text of Resolution No. 3 calls for a meeting of the "National Assembly, which is made up of the two congressional chambers and the Council of State, to decide on the need for total reform or an amendment of the Constitution, as provided for by Article 220 of the Constitution."

Article 2 of the resolution states that "the National Assembly meeting will be held in Asuncion, capital of the Republic of Paraguay, on 12 June 1991 (day of the Chaco Armistice), at 0900, in a place to be duly determined." [passage omitted]

Peru

President Fujimori Views Foreign Financial Aid

PY0904160791 Lima RTP Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Report by correspondent Luis Sotomayor, including recorded interview with President Fujimori in Japan on 9 April]

[Excerpts] Through the visit of President Alberto Fujimori to Japan, Peru has for the first time in many years established prominent political contact with the international financial community, given that the representatives of the international financial organizations have fully agreed to grant credit assistance to Peru.

This is the result of the meeting held by President Fujimori with the representatives of the international

financial organizations headed by the United States and Japan, followed by France, Norway, Belgium, Colombia, Mexico, Venezuela, Spain, Chile, and Germany. We can report that at last a general consensus to help Peru has been reached here in Japan. This position was consolidated after President Fujimori held a private meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu in the prime minister's office. [passage omitted]

President Fujimori today reported on the results of his visit to Nagoya and Tokyo.

[Begin recording] [Fujimori] The most important thing is the issue on the creation of a support group. I reiterated our petition to Prime Minister Kaifu and he expressed the Japanese Government's firm determination to grant us maximum support. He will thus carry out the necessary coordination.

[Sotomayor] Yesterday you held a meeting, one of the most important and perhaps the first one that Peru has ever held with the representatives of international financial organizations. Could you summarize the results of this meeting?

[Fujimori] In case the public is not well informed, it was an unofficial meeting with the representatives of the main developed countries and international organizations. I must say that although it was an unofficial meeting, representatives of all the member countries were present and we clearly understood that our economic program was approved.

The international organizations are determined to support our reestablishment in the international financial community for which we require funds totalling—as I mentioned before in the past few days—$1.3 billion. A new strategy has been designed to pay our debts in arrears, which amount to $2.1 billion. To pay this $2.1 billion in arrears, several adjustments have been made so that we will pay off $1.3 billion, $500 million this year, and $800 million next year. [sentence as heard]

[Sotomayor] This means that this is money will be granted by the support group?

[Fujimori] Yes, we need support from this group of friendly countries. I sensed a very favorable atmosphere. They, I mean the United States and Japan, expressed considerable interest in supporting us. Other countries also expressed their position yesterday during the meeting, for example France, Spain, Mexico, and the other representatives, according to what I learned from other private conversations. I think it was a key, crucial meeting.

[Sotomayor] You will begin an official visit to the PRC tomorrow and today is your last day in Japan. Could you evaluate your visit to Japan?

[Fujimori] It has been a very important and timely visit. As you all know, the Peruvian image before the international financial community has deteriorated quite a bit. Following the implementation of our economic plan, Peru is again being respected and the evaluation by the international financial organizations clearly demonstrate this. Thus, one of our main objectives, which was to change the international image of Peru, has been achieved. We are now preparing more precise measures of our next steps to form this support group, that is, its members. We hope the United States will head the group together with Japan. There is almost agreement regarding this aspect. With this unofficial meeting in Japan, we have taken the most important step to finally reestablish Peru in the international financial community, which means we will obtain credits, loans, and donations through bilateral cooperation. This will allow us to overcome our stagnation.

[Sotomayor] Mr. President, could we discuss the dates of when this important progress will begin working for Peru?

[Fujimori] I do not want to talk about dates; we should not hurry. Our declarations must be cautious, we must demonstrate patience. I think we have taken important steps, so I hope that soon we will be able to meet all our aspirations.

[Sotomayor] Definitively (this year)?

[Fujimori] I hope that it will be this year. [passage omitted] [end recording] [passage omitted]

Complementary Municipal Elections Announced

PY0904165391 Lima RTP Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Carlos Castaneda La Fontaine, president of the National Electoral Board, today reported that complementary municipal elections will be held next 18 August without fail, and that the registration of candidates will close on 19 June. [passage omitted]

New Currency To Begin Circulating in Sep

PY0904173491 Lima RTP Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] The new sol [nuevo sol] currency will become effective in September. This was announced today by Javier de la Rocha, general manager of the National Mint. He said that 10- and 20-new sol bills and coins will start circulating in September. He said the new sol will be effective only as an accounting unit but that it will begin circulating physically next September. [sentence as heard]

Venezuela

* 1990 Foreign Investment Statistics Detailed

91SM0238B Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish Second Section 5 Mar 91 p 1

[Text] New foreign investments in our country totaled $355 million in 1990, according to Foreign Investment Board spokesman Anselmo Chuecos Perez.

Based on the latest report of that official organization responsible for recording foreign investments in Venezuela, December was one of the months with the most new investment activity in Venezuela, with a total of 47 new capital contributions worth $48 million, or 2,246,357,073.50 bolivars.

The months of September, August, and January 1990, in that order, led in terms of the amount of foreign exchange taken in. The September total was $67 million, compared with $60.9 million for August, while January showed a balance of $55 million. The SIEX [Foreign Investments Authority] shows they were followed by June ($39 million), October ($25.3 million), May ($16.9 million), November ($15.3 million), March ($11.5 million), February ($8.3 million), July ($5.9 million), and April, with the lowest investment total for 1990: $.61 million.

There were 47 new foreign investments totaling over $48 million (2.2 billion bolivars) in the month of December 1990.

Investments came by various channels, the largest of all being the direct contribution of foreign currency totaling $41.8 million in December, 86 percent of the total amount of foreign investments during that period of the year. Compounding the debt comprised the second channel by which foreign capital entered the country in December, totaling $6.6 million (13.7 percent of the total). Investment in infrastructure brought in $6.6 million and compounding of the surplus meant $8 million in December.

It should be emphasized that four foreign enterprises in Venezuela accounted for the largest contributions in that month. Ford Motor Company, through Ford Motor of Venezuela, made a contribution of $36.9 million in new foreign exchange capital, or 1,822,000,000 bolivars. Although these resources are classified as new investments, they were earmarked for making up for exchange losses suffered from the cancellation of letters of credit.

Fanny Perez V.

Hoechst (Germany), through Hoechst of Venezuela, contributed $2.9 million, or 127 million bolivars. The Teduca Publishing Company received an investment from Santillana, Inc. for $818,000, some 35.3 million bolivars, for the purpose of setting up a mechanism for compounding the debt.

The SIEX registry also shows that the Venezuelan Tubecya Distributing Company compounded credits worth $822,000 (37 million bolivars).

In addition, Fragar, Inc. (registered to Fred and Charles Fimernich) invested $700,000 (30,635,000 bolivars) in the Fimernich Company in Venezuela.

Liberalization of Investments in Andean Region Before 31 March

After supplying the most up-to-date figures on investments in our country, the superintendent of Foreign Investments told of the most recent meeting of Andean Pact experts held for the purpose of analyzing new foreign investment regulations in the five countries in the region (Venezuela, Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, and Bolivia).

According to mandates issued by the La Paz summit conference (November 1990), the Andean presidents ordered the total liberalization of foreign investment regulations in the region for the purpose of making the existing legal framework even more open. For example, decisions 220 (on foreign investment regulations in general) and 244 (referring solely to conditions established for Andean multinational enterprises) will undergo substantial modifications before 31 March of this year.

Chuecos Perez said the reforms will be made for the purpose of giving foreign enterprises operating in the subregion flexibility they do not currently enjoy.

For example, perhaps the most important point is that they cannot take advantage of the liberalization effective 1 January 1992 that will establish zero tariff restrictions on commercial trade in the Andean subregion. Until decision 220 is modified, foreign companies will continue to be exempt from the Andean market's benefits. In other words, they may market their products, but with higher import tariffs than those paid by national firms, hurting their ability to compete.

Chuecos Perez believes that if decision 220 is modified, foreign enterprises will have access to the Andean market on the same terms as national companies.

"If foreign investment regulations are liberalized in the Andean region and the advantages of the expanded market are exploited to the fullest, foreign firms will be motivated to increase their levels of production and export," the head of SIEX explained.

As far as reform of decision 244 concerning Andean multinational enterprises is concerned, it refers to an increase in percentages of foreign capital's participation in stock in Andean countries, to wit: 45 percent in Venezuela, Colombia, and Peru (currently 20), and 60 percent in Ecuador and Bolivia (now 25).

By opening up the establishment of multinational enterprises to foreign participation, it is assumed that foreign firms will be encouraged to participate under conditions that are much broader than at present.

$900 Million in Investment Projects

Superintendent of Foreign Investments Chuecos Perez also reported on a meeting held last week with the Inter-American Investment Corporation (IIC) (financial subsidiary of the Inter-American Development Bank),

whose purpose it is to encourage investment projects in Latin America and the Caribbean.

SIEX presented a portfolio of 90 projects totaling $900 million. Those projects are waiting to be auctioned off by SIEX for the purpose of turning debt into investment, but inasmuch as the decision concerning them came to a halt, the organization deemed it appropriate to seek resources from other agencies such as the Inter-American Investment Corporation.

SIEX will likewise set up a mechanism for cooperation with the Andean Development Corporation (CAF) so that the organization may serve as a bridge to the European Economic Community and UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization) and thus help the Venezuelan private sector promote investments. The agreement will be signed in April.

* Puerto La Cruz Refinery To Be Modernized

91SM0238C Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish Second Section 1 Mar 91 p 9

[Article by C.R. Chavez]

[Text] Within its general plan of expansion and modernization and in keeping with the PDVSA [Venezuelan Petroleum, Inc.] strategy of intensifying programs to increase refining capacity at home and abroad, Corpoven [a subsidiary of the Venezuelan Oil Company—Petroven] is spending 3.77 billion bolivars to update technology at the Puerto La Cruz Refinery and thus ensure its operational reliability and safety while protecting the environment.

The gradual increase in the demand for so-called "white" products (gasoline, kerosene, and so on) worldwide has resulted in the redirecting of Petroven strategies toward accelerated development of its crude oil production potential. The ensuing increase in production and exports has resulted in a need for investments in the national refining system so as to provide the flexibility necessary to take advantage of opportunities to sell hydrocarbons on the international market.

Corpoven's 1991 refining budget is some 5.5 billion bolivars and the basic plan for the 1991-1996 period—the next six years—is 194 billion bolivars, 63 percent of the overall plan of 308 billion bolivars allocated for investment in the development of the country's refining plans.

Corpoven's Puerto La Cruz Refinery plays a key role in industry operations because of its role in the marketing of crude from the eastern region and its importance in supplying products to the regional market. It has a processing capacity of 200,000 barrels of oil a day, to include superlight, light, medium and even heavy crude (90,000 barrels/day).

Since the refinery is located in one of the areas of the country with the greatest tourist attractions, it is necessary to ensure high operational reliability and safety and strict compliance with environmental regulations, paying heed to corporate policy in terms of having safe, nonpolluting facilities. This policy required large investments in order to ensure the industry's coexistence with the environment.

In the 1980's, Corpoven completed several essential projects at the Puerto La Cruz Refinery. First came those inherent in the gas treatment system and costing 150 million bolivars. These included the installation of a sulfur recovery unit, having the capacity to obtain 18 tons of that product a day and reduce the release of sulfur dioxide into the atmosphere, and the acid rain stripper, at a cost of 50 million bolivars. Both went into service at the end of 1989.

At the same time, in order to guarantee the operational efficiency of environmental protection systems installed, there is now a station for automatic, permanent monitoring of air quality in the Puerto La Cruz area, with remote transmission to the refinery laboratory, making it possible to instantly detect any abnormality.

Another project is the effluent treatment system which, with an investment of 500 million bolivars, should be completed by mid-1991.

In order to guarantee operational continuity and reliability, the project to update instruments at the Puerto La Cruz Refinery involves modernization of instruments and automatic controls using state-of-the-art technology at a cost of some 1.2 billion bolivars. One should also emphasize the investment of another 1.2 billion bolivars to update the electrical system, providing additional capacity while improving the refinery's operational reliability.

The catalytic cracking unit was also modified and the leasing unit is now being remodeled at an estimated cost of some 720 million bolivars. As one may easily observe, Corpoven has spent the money it had to modernize the refinery, protect the environment, eliminate operational risks, and adapt profound conversion units to new technologies, thereby guaranteeing profitable operation and a reliable supply of hydrocarbon products to the eastern region of the country.

Refining Record

For the third time, Corpoven's refining operation obtained the prize awarded by the PDVSA, having completed 5 million man-hours without any accidents causing a loss of time from January 1990 through 5 February 1991. This prize for outstanding work in accident prevention was established by the PDVSA for

production, refining, and petrochemistry at the Petroven subsidiaries of Corporven, Maraven, Lagoven, and Pequiven, which accumulated an uninterrupted total of 5 million man-hours without any disabling accidents.

Corpoven's refining function is entrusted to the El Palito, Puerto La Cruz, and San Roque refineries in Anzoategui and El Toreno in Barinas. The award received is for the combined accumulation of 5 million man-hours, which in fact reflects the joint effort of all personnel and the corporation's concern for the personal safety and surroundings of the facilities, as expressed by Corpoven President Roberto Mandini at the first operational accident prevention days: "This has led us to internalize the concept of overall protection as an integral part of the goals and objectives of the oil business."